

# THE C4 NEWSLETTER

*Winter 2017*

*Volume 25, Number 4*



Among the very first coins in America – Lord Harington's patent farthings (See Page 33.)

Image Courtesy of Mark Sportack

## Featured in this issue:

President's Corner

Remembering Robert Martin

Eric P. Newman: Some Recollections

The Popular Spanish Pistareen

The French Sol of 1767

French Colonial Coins: The 1720 Petit Louis d'Argent

A Trip to Colonial Williamsburg

Lord Harington's Patent Farthings: The Earliest Colonial Coinage

The Winslet Collection for America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Counterfeits/Copies: Love Them or Hate Them

Library News, Convention Auction Report and Library Challenge

Announcements and Classified, Club & Sponsored Advertisements



Colonial and Early American Coin Highlights from the

# STACK'S BOWERS GALLERIES

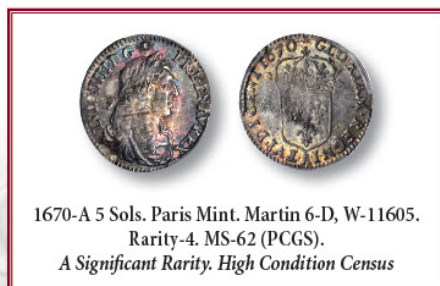
## MARCH 2018 AUCTION

*in conjunction with the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo*

*March 21-23, 2018 • Baltimore, Maryland*



1787 Vermont Copper. RR-13, Bressett 17-V, W-2255. Rarity-1. BRITANNIA. MS-60 BN (PCGS).



1670-A 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 6-D, W-11605. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).  
*A Significant Rarity. High Condition Census*



"1783" (Circa 1820) Military Bust Copper. Musante GW-109, Baker-4A. Rarity-2. Small Military Bust. Plain Edge. AU-55 BN (NGC).



Portugal. 1766 4 Escudos. KM-240. AU-58 (PCGS).



1787 Massachusetts Half Cent. Ryder 4-C, W-5940. Rarity-2. AU-58 (PCGS).



1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 39-a, W-5195. Rarity-2. No Sprig Above Plow, Outlined Shield. EF-45 BN (NGC).



1773 Virginia Halfpenny. Newman 25-M, W-1580. Rarity-2. 7 Harp Strings, Period After GEORGIVS. MS-64 RB (PCGS).



1788 Massachusetts Cent. Ryder 10-L, W-6280. Rarity-2+. Period After MASSACHUSETTS. EF-45 (PCGS).



"1783" (Circa 1820) Draped Bust Copper. Musante GW-106, Baker-2. Rarity-2. No Button. Copper. Plain Edge. AU-58 BN (NGC).



1652 Pine Tree Shilling. Small Planchet. Noe-30, Salmon 12-G, W-935. Rarity-3. VF-35 (PCGS).

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**The C4 Newsletter**

Volume 25, Number 4

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Jack Howes)

By the time you read this 2017 will be a fading memory. It went fast for me and there was both good and bad news. First the bad news, members (that we know of) who passed on in 2017: Eric Newman died at 106, Jim Scalbe, and Robert Martin at 71. Eric was a life member and Robert might as well have been as I think he had been a member since the club was organized. I believe Jim was also a member since the club formed.

We got word that Robert had passed mid-day Thursday at our C4 Convention in Baltimore. Robert had told me about a month earlier that he did not think he could make it this year. So, I knew his health was seriously bad, as this gathering was one of the highlights of his year. I've known Robert for the better part of twenty years and considered him a great friend. It is sad to think I will never speak with him again. I have many memories of the stories he would tell.

In addition to Connecticut state coppers, Robert was an avid collector of Numismatic Literature that had at least some Colonial content. He was meticulous in his research and had a core library of Connecticut state copper research that I hope survives. He never embraced the digital world in any serious way, so this material is all "analog." He cut and pasted and typed his notes for all his research into binders; many, many linear feet of handcrafted work.

Robert collected numismatic catalogs also. And since the mid to late 1970s he attended most auctions of colonial interest that were held in New York City. He would leave with many leftover duplicate catalogs. One of my favorite stories he told was of his "cave-in" room. "What, I asked, is a 'cave-in' room"? He told me he had dedicated one room (more a large closet I believe) in his apartment to modern catalogues. One day he left the door open and a couple of his cats got in and chased each other over the stacks of catalogs, tipping them into the middle of the room and creating a "cave-in." Robert had closed the room off for over a decade but had been recently trying to restore "order." I don't know if he finished that task. I always picture opening the door to that room and still seeing the yellow crime scene tape crisscrossing the doorway!

With respect to Eric, it is not like this was not expected but still it is a great loss. I only knew Eric for about the last 10 years, but I worked with him on several projects and spent a couple days with him in St. Louis that I will always remember. I can't compete with the obit writers at the NY Times, so I will just point you all to his obit there. If you have not already seen it, it is worth reading:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/16/obituaries/eric-newman-dead-leading-authority-on-coins.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/16/obituaries/eric-newman-dead-leading-authority-on-coins.html?_r=0).

**Now for the good news!** The club received a check from the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNEs) in the amount of **\$10,000**. I sent Andy Newman (who wrote the check) a thank you letter, promptly. The board and I are in

discussions of how to use this money. There are a lot of good ideas. Of course it will be targeted at numismatic education and as we make use of the money, we will keep our members and the EPNES apprised.

I want to convey some of the fun and excitement of our annual C4 convention in Baltimore but I also want the members who cannot make the convention to know what the club officers look like. I hope more members will make the trip. You will definitely not regret attending! Dale Isaac has been taking photographs at the convention for many years and I consider him our unofficial C4 photographer. He sent me a DVD of his images from this year's convention. Below you will find images that of our club officers and past club officers who actively worked on this year's convention, with a couple exceptions (1) Jim Rosen continues to provide great input and he was only at the convention for a short time and neither Wayne Shelby (Region 7) nor Chris Salmon (Region 8) could attend this year. Their pictures are from different events, as are two others, as noted.



Clockwise from top left: Jay Knipe (C4 secretary) and I leading the board and business meetings Saturday morning. Craig McDonald (National VP) at the club table greeting people and taking money. Craig was also in charge of exhibits. Leo Shane (C4 Librarian) was responsible for the educational program and provided an exhibit. Dennis Weirzba (past C4 President) and Charlie Rohrer (C4 Treasurer.) Thanks to Charlie for making all our financial issues run smoothly. Dennis has been in charge of securing and organizing the room and food for our education event for over 20 years and finding dealers for our dealer table area.

## C4 Newsletter



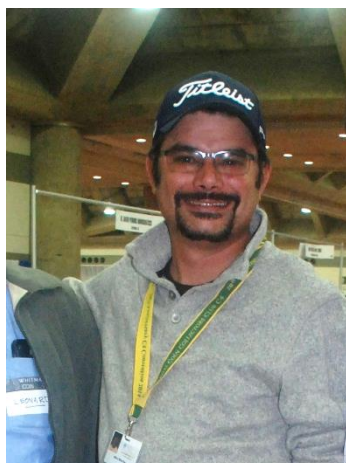
Clockwise from top left: Ray Williams (past C4 president.) Ray always hauls stuff for our table setup and organizes the volunteers who man the table area. And provides the video equipment for our educational night. David Menchell (Region 3 VP.) David always provides interesting and amazing exhibits and I don't believe he has repeated any in over 20 years. Mike Packard coordinated an exhibit of Massachusetts coppers. Mike lives in Virginia. Jim Rosen (past C4 president) generally provided me with lots of support but was only able to be at the convention for one day this year. Will Nipper (C4 Newsletter Editor.) Will probably has one of the hardest jobs or at least the one that takes the most time of all your C4 officers. Dale Isaac, who keeps a photographic record of C4 events. The last two photographs were taken at the Joint C4/EAC Convention in Philadelphia, in April 2017. Note: All photos are by or the property of Dale Isaac except Jim Rosen, Dave Menchell (in VPs), Chris Salmon and Wayne Shelby. Those are by Neil Rothschild.



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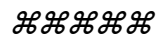


Mitch Mitchell, Region 9  
WA-OR-CO-MN-AK-BC-UK

Finally, please support your club!

Put the next convention on your calendar now. And on that note, I want to indicate next year's convention will be several weeks earlier in the fall. It is scheduled for Oct 25<sup>th</sup> to Oct 28<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore at the Convention center which is the same location as the last six years.

Another way to help remotely is to contribute to the newsletter: write a short article on something you found or are interested in, borrow a book from the library and write a review, or tell us something about a related topic.

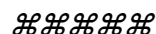


Editor's Note: Losing Robert Martin and Eric Newman within days of each other was truly a great loss. Few in C4 were untouched by their knowledge, their generosity and their decency.

Though I personally knew Robert for less than a decade, it seemed as if I had known him forever. Much has been and will be written about his encyclopedic knowledge and his willingness to share it. I experienced that first hand at gatherings and on business trips to New York, when we'd talk until four or five in the morning. But, much more than that, Robert was a good and caring friend. In a world where we know each other solely by what we 'like' or tweet on social media, that's a rare and precious thing to lose.

How could one not be awed and inspired by Eric Newman's body of work and the groundwork he has laid for the future of numismatics? He was truly a giant. Yet, he, too, was revered as much for his character as for his knowledge and contributions. Though I rarely had the privilege of interacting with him, there was a time when I called and left a message for someone on his staff. The call was never returned. But, two weeks later, Mr. Newman himself called and profusely apologized. Really? Eric Newman apologizing to me? That left a deep and enduring impression on an insignificant, young (by his standards) fifty-something collector.

In this issue, we offer remembrances of these two fine gentlemen by members who knew them well. Readers are also encouraged to read comments in *The Esylum* and *The Colonial Newsletter*. Also, see the New York Times and Washington University St. Louis respective websites: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/16/obituaries/eric-newman-dead-leading-authority-on-coins.html> and <https://source.wustl.edu/2017/11/obituary-eric-p-newman-106/>.



## REMEMBERING ROBERT MARTIN

(Dave MENCHELL)

I read the latest comments about Robert Martin and thought I would add a few remembrances of my own. I first met Robert around the time of the Frederick Taylor sale in 1987. I was the new kid on the block with a recent interest in State coinage. Of course, I didn't have Robert's vast knowledge, but I guess I was active enough to come onto his radar.

We soon began to communicate extensively. Robert was something of a paradox: he had that New York accent and tough guy appearance that reminded me of Jack Palance, yet when he began talking about coins, he was very precise and methodical, not at all what you would expect. He maintained an extensive file on Connecticut coppers, which he willingly shared with anyone who was interested in the series. I remember his giving me lists of several Connecticut collections being auctioned taken from his notes, in advance of the actual auctions. We would talk about the major sales, like Hessberg, Perkins and Ford, going over each lot, with Bobby highlighting those items he felt were underrated in terms of rarity, grading or condition census. If I purchased a piece that he was aware of, he would frequently provide me with pedigree information and the listings of prior auction appearances of the coin.

He was a true connoisseur of the series. I can recall many a night when I would speak to him on the phone (usually later than 11) and we would be chatting away for two hours or more. I'm embarrassed to say that on more than one occasion I dozed off during these conversations, while Bobby was still enthusiastically continuing the discussion.

Bobby was a regular attendee at the first Colonial Cookouts that I held in the mid-1990's. These annual summer BBQ's at my home on Long Island were attended by many local collectors, including Bobby. He always brought items of interest to share with the rest of us. On one occasion, the evening was drawing to a close and the guests were leaving. Bobby was chatting with the late Steve Tanenbaum in front of the house. I had to run an errand and was away from the house for about two hours. I returned to find Bobby and Steve still chatting away exactly where I had left them two hours earlier.

Bobby always had interesting stories and anecdotes about himself and other collectors, usually told with a wry sense of humor. I remember his tale about his first wife and her disapproval of his interest in coins. "I was sitting at the kitchen table having breakfast and reading a copy of *Coin World*", he related, "when suddenly, a knife came plunging through the newspaper. I suspected at that time that she did not share my interest in coins."

Over time, family, career and other matters reduced my contact with Bobby. I would see him at Colonial coin gatherings and auctions, but he was always willing to talk and answer any numismatic questions. He was truly a unique individual, kind, knowledgeable and generous in sharing his expertise with others. Numismatics has lost a



brilliant and scholarly collector and researcher, and those of us who knew Robert Martin have lost a good friend.

(Randy Clark)

There are many people who knew Robert Martin more years than I, and certainly many of those were much closer to him, as well. For just over a decade Robert and I collaborated on specific interests in Connecticut coppers that went into considerable depth on the topic. Out of has come a substantial knowledge base on the series, several articles published jointly or individually ... in forums such as *C4N* and Roger's *Symposia* ... and years worth of private documentation (image plates, rarity listings, etc.)

Although I had been communicating with Robert Martin as early as 2004, we first met at my debut C4 convention in Boston 2006. I had with me the 1st draft of a 300-page illustrated rewrite of Miller's book on Connecticut coppers, which seemed to generate some interest among the Connecticut collectors. This seemed to establish some credibility with Robert, and a very productive collaboration started which lasted up to his passing. Our mutual interest was in Connecticut coppers themselves (varieties and details) and their historic collectors. Robert steered clear of mint histories, minter biographies and period economics – he was a quintessential “coin guy.” Over the years, we would collaborate on census and rarity ratings (something he had hoped to “focus on” in his retirement,) worked with Neil Rothschild on origins and documentation of major collections, made plates of important varieties and generally managed the knowledge base on the Connecticut coppers. When Neil's life interests led in other directions, Robert and I just kept going.

Robert had a true photographic memory for coins and would recall amazing details on a particular coin from its description, or a picture or, even better, in hand. It was a knack he had that set him apart from most others in the hobby. If he had previously seen a coin, he would recount it's prior appearances ... often with the comment “I had rights of first refusal on that” or “I used to own that one.” And then he'd tell you where it went afterwards. He might not always get the attribution right from memory (in the 33's and Z's,) but he'd get close – and with a quick glance at EAC75, Taylor or his personal notes he would zero in on it. As he got older, he found it easier to contact others for attributions on unfamiliar coins ... delegating the dirty work. Or, maybe more appropriately feeding his “strays” ... the non-feline, numismatic kind.

Like he did with others, Robert talked my ear off in late night phone conversations. Being on the west coast one would think I had the time zone advantage, but he would still outlast me. Later I was able to switch him to a time during my evening commute, when stuck in traffic I had nothing else to do (if I lost reception, he'd still be talking when it came back.) When I'd get home, he'd seemed to just be warming up. Sigh. My wife would say, “who ARE you talking to !?”

Lots and lots of Robert's stories, like: He played on a Bronx football team called the Stingers around 1962 with his brother John. They played other New York teams in the

shadow of Yankee Stadium, and he said they were a tough crew. Not sure if they won a championship, but I think he was still in touch with teammates in his later years.

After taking college classes for a few years he decided to take a break and was instantly drafted in 1966 (lost his deferment.) With 7 months of basic training for the Signal Corps he was sent to Vietnam from April 1967 to April 1968, overlapping with the Tet offensive. He was a Morse code operator. Robert said he lost 40 pounds while serving there and when his service was up, he was flown back to New York within a day, via Seattle, of leaving the war zone. Robert recalled the whole experience as being surreal, particularly the stark contrast of coming home from Vietnam, and the service, so abruptly.

After the war, Robert was a professional fire systems inspector for the insurance industry, specializing in the gravity feed water systems so common in New York City. The hours required of the job were somewhat “flexible”, and came with a company car, so the career was good to Robert. He had time to pursue his coin hobby and still manage a career. Until computers came into the scene ... and a mortal struggle for supremacy with technology ensued (which Robert wasn’t winning.) He talked about spending a week in LA to inspect their fire systems, but LA didn’t have gravity feed installations. So, he had to kill time in the area, with a friend who invited himself along (think “fear and loathing” on the beaches of LA.)

Robert went into the coin business for several years with partner Roger Geary as “Lancaster & Shields” – a name which must have amused him to no end, as it sounds like a police drama. Price lists were published. Coins sold. But others can tell that story better.

He was a catalyst at EAC and early C4 conventions for colonial coppers ... and the special atmosphere surrounding late night colonial coin discussions. For that, I will forever lament joining this hobby too late to have witnessed a debate between Jim Goudge and Walter Breen on the relative merits of martinis and alternatives. And that Midnight Sale.

Robert was once invited to a high-end reception at the Norweb home in New York, which he presumed due to having been recently made an ANS Fellow by Don Partrick. He recalled Tony Terranova telling him “don’t to sit in that chair over there” (it was an expensive Chippendale) as he was pointing out other precious antiques in the home. Robert didn’t seem to feel comfortable wearing a suit jacket, something he needed for Norweb visit ... and several ANS Galas he attended with fellow Fellows Roger, Syd, Ray and Leo.

He recalled competing with Don Partrick at several colonial sales for choice Connecticut coppers. Robert attributed his success at Taylor to Don not mentally engaging until the 1787s were on the block ... and by that time Robert had scooped all the earlier-dated rarities. Don often seemed intent on watching Robert, deciding to bid on whatever Robert was bidding on, as it must be the “best stuff.” One sale exchange happened where the auctioneer asked Don if he was still bidding on a Connecticut lot that was seeing alot of activity ... with Don pointing at Robert and saying, “If he’s bidding on it, I am!” In later sales, Robert learned to quietly use other “agents” in the room to help him bid, and made sure to put his hand down early in bidding so his agents could take over and bid the

coin in for him. Pretty clever. Try that in the era of internet sales. There's a great story involving Dr. Spencer's bidding debut, but that is best told by others.

One personal fond memory was spending two days in the ANS with Robert going over the combined Connecticut copper holdings there, coin by coin. Two days is way too little time to absorb the entirety of what's there and absorb his perspective on each of the coins. Robert had written up his observations on the ANS Canfield collection in 1985 – an effort which I illustrated for him personally in 2011.

Another memory is at one of the Boston C4s, Robert brought in a huge stack of Connecticut copper photographs for me to review. I asked to borrow them overnight, to which he said "fine." That evening, I quietly walked around Boston to find a Best Buy, bought a flatbed scanner, and scanned all the images in my room into the early hours. I brought Robert his images back then next day and thanked him. He looked at me and said "You done already?" I hesitated a minute, then another ... and sheepishly told him what I'd done. Rather than get mad, he broke out laughing ... and asked for an image disc when I could get him one. Sure, Robert. No problem. He might have used them as coasters, since I was not always sure he knew how to put one in the computer (smile.)

I would see Robert periodically over the years at C4 conventions, but our last meeting was a personal one in Greenwich, CT in 2015 to have lunch, chat, exchange literature and information (Dr. Spencer was with him.) It was a convenient location at the time ... halfway between his place in the Bronx ... and where I was visiting family in central Connecticut. He was "slowing down" a bit by then, but no less committed to his hobby than as a younger man.

Robert had plans to bid on specific lots in the 2017 Newman and C4 sales, which were interrupted by his condition and left unfulfilled. The last phone call I made to him was to share the results from the 2017 Newman sale and to remind him about the Betts pieces in the upcoming Nov 2017 Stacks Bowers sale (Betts were a favorite of his.) But that call was never answered. And the rest are memories. Good ones. Good man.



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## ERIC P. NEWMAN: SOME RECOLLECTIONS

(David F. Fanning)

I met Eric P. Newman for the first time in 2001, at the summer ANA Convention in Atlanta. I had known of him since childhood, but our paths had never crossed before, and all I did now was shake his hand, say it was nice to meet him, and exchange a few pleasantries.

I met him “for real” in 2007. I had just written an article for this publication on early American auction catalogues with significant colonial content. In the years since our last meeting, I had become much more interested in and immersed in the world of colonial coins, and had also gotten back into selling numismatic literature, though that was still just a side business.

One evening, I returned home from my job as editor of a technical journal in engineering and my wife said that there was a message on the answering machine for me. It was Eric Newman, who had apparently gotten my phone number from Ray Williams. He left a detailed message, saying how much he had enjoyed my article and that he agreed with my assessment that it was important for us to preserve and study this part of our collecting heritage. He closed by giving me his phone number and asking me to call him back when convenient.

I later joked that it was like getting a phone call from God saying “keep up the good work!” My wife said I looked like a cheerleader who had just been asked to the prom by the captain of the football team.

I called him back, of course, and we had the first of what became a number of wide-ranging conversations that were as notable for the degree to which I enjoyed them as for the impossibility of guessing where they would end up. The man could talk. And while numismatics was his passion, it was in many ways simply a key to unlock doors guarding a variety of different subjects from art to history to economic to linguistics and much else.

He asked me, early on in our friendship, to be on the lookout for a particular John W. Curtis fixed-price catalogue. Curtis was a second-string coin dealer in the late 1850s and early 1860s, and his few catalogues are a bit scarce, though not terribly rare. I was able to find what Eric was looking for in a reasonable amount of time and sold it to him for a modest amount. This helped cement our relationship, as he was always looking for additional information. He was working on his Fugio book at the time, and I sent him some information on early printed references to the so-called New Haven restrikes that he was able to use.

Given the extent of his library, I was only able to provide him with a book or catalogue every once in a while, but it was always a pleasure to deal with him and feel that I was assisting him in his work in some small way. Looking through my file, I see he purchased four lots out of my first auction sale, including three volumes of *The Historical Magazine*.

In 2009, I had the pleasure of visiting Eric and his wife Evelyn at their home outside St. Louis. It was a wonderful day. We talked about everything under the sun and headed over to his museum on the Washington University campus, bringing with us sandwiches which Evelyn had made us for lunch and instructions for me to not tire him out. Evelyn was always looking out for Eric's well-being and knew that he would happily allow us numismatic types to exhaust him in conversation if she didn't keep an eye on us.

At his home, Eric showed me a broadside coin conversion chart of the 18th century that he had written about in *The Asylum* back in the mid-1990s. He had offered a prize to anyone able to identify where it had come from and when, since it had no publication information on it. No one had ever claimed the prize and it frustrated Eric that it remained unidentified. I happened to take a photo of it with my phone, and later that evening, back in my hotel room, I typed the title into Google, wondering if anything would come up. Within a minute, the coin chart was identified. It turned out not to be a broadside after all, but a large folding plate from a book, William Guthrie's *A New System of Modern Geography* (1794–95.) Eric was thrilled that I had discovered this and amazed that I had found it so easily with an online resource. We wrote an article about it together for the October–December 2009 issue of *The Asylum*. I'm very proud to share a byline with Eric on that article.


Our relationship continued. On the business side, I represented him at George Kolbe's auction of the highlights of the Stack Family Library (2010), buying for him a copy of Ormsby's 1852 *Description of the Present System of Bank Note Engraving*, a beautiful and important volume. On a more research-oriented subject, Eric and I publicly discussed in *The E-Sylum* our views of the claim that Chauncey Lee's 1797 book *The American Accomptant* contained the first printed dollar sign. This was notable for me because I was disagreeing with Eric's view that Lee's typographical symbol was unrelated to the later accepted dollar sign.

Imagine: disagreeing with Eric P. Newman—and in a public forum, no less! To say I felt some trepidation is an understatement. I've had plenty of disagreements with plenty of numismatists over the years, but this was questioning The Ultimate Authority, it seemed (see above, re phone call from God.) But it goes without saying that our disagreement on this matter was civil, courteous and professional. He never dismissed my arguments with a wave of his hand or sounded condescending to someone who was sixty years younger than him and who had studied the subject far less vigorously. Neither one of us ever changed his mind about this, but that was perfectly OK: he was capable of disagreeing with a colleague without thinking less of the person.

In more recent years, my firm became involved with producing the hardcover versions of the auction catalogues of his collection produced by Heritage. It was an honor to feel involved in that project in some small way, an honor that was intensified in Sale IX when I was asked to help catalogue the colonial coins in that sale. Writing up the unique Noe-12 Pine Tree shilling was an opportunity I never expected to have, and was a real treat for me.

Summing up, I would say that Eric Newman represented everything I love about numismatists: their unbound curiosity, broad interests, unbridled enthusiasm, and their willingness to share what they have been able to discover. It seems the height of ingratitude to wish we had been given more time with someone who lived to be 106, but he will be sorely missed by many.


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## THE POPULAR SPANISH PISTAREEN

(Leo Shane)

As Colonial Collectors, many times we see the Spanish Pistareen mentioned in the literature we read. We also hear of ground finds from metal detectors. We take for granted that the Pistareen was in common use in 18<sup>th</sup> century American Colonial commerce (and into the 19<sup>th</sup>.) I would like to add to the evidence of just how popular these coins were.



Above is an example of a 1721 Pistareen. Also pictured is a Pistareen cut in half to create a Half Pistareen used in change or for a small purchase. The date is not visible but we know from the king's name (Philippus V) that it was minted somewhere between 1700 and 1746. Also pictured is a quarter section of a pistareen. It is dated 1718. Note that not all cut Pistareens were pie shaped. The weights of the respective pieces are 83.2, 51.2 and 18.6 grains respectively. The fact that the weights are not exact multiples of each other shows that when pieces were cut, the results was only an approximation of what they were meant to be. This photo shows that not only were Pistareens used in commerce, but they were cut to make smaller change.

Pictured below is an actual 1738 Half Pistareen as well as a 1752 Quarter Pistareen. Also pictured is a Half Pistareen cut down to a Quarter Pistareen. This cut piece is also from the reign of Philippus V (1700 – 1746.) The fact that the Half was cut down to a Quarter seems to confirm the use of Half and Quarter Pistareens in commerce. The respective weights of these pieces are 44.0, 22.7, and 20.9 grains.



Further evidence of the popularity of the pistareen is shown in the July 17, 1775 Virginia currency note shown below. The value of this note is one shilling 3 Pence or 15 pence. Unlike the standard Spanish 2 Reale which was valued at one quarter of a Spanish Dollar (18 Pence), the Pistareen was a debased coin with a value one fifth less than the standard Spanish 2 Reale. The fact that a currency issue would use the Pistareen denomination speaks volumes about the use of this coin in commercial transactions.



The last piece of evidence that I'd like to present showing the popularity of the Pistareen and its fractions is a table taken from Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire & Vermont Almanack of 1796. The heading of the table reads "*The Value of Several Pieces of Silver Coin now in circulation in the United States, in Federal Currency.*"

In this table are listed the Denominations of Quarter Pistereen, Half Pistereen and Pistereen. Note that the Spanish Quarter Dollar (2 Reale) is valued at 25 cents in Federal money while the Pistereen is valued at 20 cents. This shows the one fifth value reduction for the debased Spanish Pistereen. This chart gives further evidence that the Pistereen and its fractions along with standard Spanish silver and crowns made up the majority of silver coins found in eighteenth century American commerce.

Vth TABLE. *The Value of the several Pieces of Silver Coin now in circulation in the United States, in Federal Currency.*

	Cents.	Mills.
One fourth of a Pistareen or half Dime	5	0
Four pence halfpenny	6	2½
Half Pistareen, or Dime	10	0
Nine pence piece or ⅔ of a Dollar	12	5
Pistareen or two Dimes	20	0
Quarter of a Dollar	25	0
Half a Dollar	50	0
Dollar	100	0
Half a Crown, French	55	0
Half a Crown, English	55	5
Crown, French	110	0
Crown, English	111	0

10 MILLS is 1 CENT.  
 10 CENTS — 1 DIME, or DISME.  
 10 DIMES — 1 DOLLAR.  
 10 DOLLARS — 1 EAGLE.

In summary, proof of the popularity of the Pistereen and its fractions comes not only from references in literature and ground finds. The evidence of cut pieces, paper currency and coin charts in Almanacks show that this was a common coin used in commerce in the American Colonial Period and afterwards into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Few other coins have this much evidence to prove their use in eighteenth century American commerce.

Many thanks to Jack Howes for taking the photos for this article.

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## THE COLONIAL FRENCH SOL OF 1767

(Paul Schultz)

One of the coins in the Colonial Issues section of the “Redbook” (*Guidebook of United States Coins* by R. S. Yeoman) is a 1767 French Colonies piece, frequently found with an “RF” counterstamp. It is an interesting piece in several ways, and much more could be said about it than is mentioned in the brief Redbook listing. That Redbook description simply states that these coins were made for use in French Colonies and only unofficially circulated in Louisiana, along with other coins and tokens. Most were counterstamped with “RF,” and the “A” mintmark signifies the Paris mint.

### Commonly Available Information

Walter Breen’s *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* devotes about ¾ page to them and a few other 18<sup>th</sup> century French coins. He states that they have turned up in non-collector accumulations with North American tokens (a largely Canadian issue) and 1783 Birmingham Washington pieces (produced about the 1800s to 1820s,) and concludes that they circulated in the U.S. during the coin shortage of the War of 1812. Although they may have circulated in the eastern U.S. and Louisiana on an occasional informal basis, they were not widespread, and this era is well after Colonial times.

The coin is not mentioned in Crosby’s *Early Coins of America*.

They are briefly mentioned in Bowers’ *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*, but are limited to a notation that simply states that these are only related to the West Indies.

This issue is briefly described in Durst’s *Comprehensive Guide to American Colonial Coinage*, pp 48-50. This reference claims that they were made of brass (a gold colored alloy of copper and zinc, but the coins are really just red copper,) produced by France for the Louisiana colonies (they were issued for general French colonies of the time, but Louisiana was lost by France to Spain before 1767,) and were counterstamped “RF...probably denoting *Royal Favor*.” (If this were the case, it would be “*faveur royale*” in French, and would be stamped “FR.”)

### The Coins

The coin was originally issued in 1767 to replace old billon (low quality silver) coinage in a variety of overseas French colonies including several Caribbean islands. With a weight of 12.2 grams and diameter of 29 mm, they were roughly the size of a U.S. large cent. The value of the original issue in 1767 was one sol or 12 deniers, and was probably roughly comparable to a U.S. large cent in purchasing power. One side shows crossed scepters, representing the French Royal Scepter and the Scepter of Justice. The legend is *COLONIES FRANCOISES L(UDOVICUS) XV* for “French Colonies of Louis XV.” The other side shows a wreath and crown with 3 *fleur de lis* in it. The legend is *SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTUM +1767*, translated as “Blessed is the Name of the Lord.”



Surviving documentation suggests that only a small fraction of the 1.6 million coins minted were issued at the time. In 1767, in Guadeloupe, they were initially refused by the people and did not circulate.

In 1793, the governor of Guadeloupe, Georges Collot, requested the rest for use on his island. They were countermarked “RF,” for *Republique Francaise* in recognition of the new French republican government, and sent to that colony. Although the majority of known specimens today are countermarked, it is not certain that all of these that were sent in 1793 were countermarked, since survivors today without countermarks are more common than might be expected when considering the original very small release in 1767. The pieces released in 1793 were valued at 3 sol 9 *deniers*, a substantial increase in value, but still small change. This seemed to encourage acceptance and widespread circulation. Both countermarked and non-countermarked examples are sometimes called Collots after the governor who requested them. A little known aspect of these coins is that 22 different die varieties exist, plus 15 varieties of the counterstamp. According to *The Colonial Newsletter* articles describing them, the counterstamp varieties have differing numbers of dots and shapes of the letters.

From Guadeloupe, as with any coin of the period, many likely spread with travelers to other ports of the Caribbean Sea, and perhaps beyond.

### **The History Behind It**

Guadeloupe had a varied and interesting history, conquered often by varying forces. The original Arawak people who settled there around 300 AD were killed off by invading Caribs during the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Columbus found the island in 1493, but the Caribs were able to repel the Spanish in the early 1600s. In 1635, the French took possession of the island and killed many of the Caribs. Over the next century, the British seized and lost the island several times, enticed by the rich sugar trade centered there, finally managing to hold it for a while after the capture of it in 1759. Meanwhile, slavery had been introduced by the end of the 1600s.

Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris that ended the Seven Years War (a.k.a. the French and Indian War in the US,) the British returned Guadeloupe to France but kept the French portion of Canada. In 1790, after the French Revolution, many landowners of Guadeloupe refused to obey the new law dictating equal rights for free people of color and succeeded in declaring independence of the island in 1791. They refused to receive the new governor that Paris had appointed in 1792. In 1793, a slave rebellion broke out, so the landowners appealed to the British for help and asked them to occupy the island.

Britain obliged in this request, and held Guadeloupe from April 21, 1794 until December, when French governor Victor Hugues forced the British to surrender. Hugues freed the slaves, who then attacked the slave owners who controlled the sugar plantations.

In 1802, Napoleon Bonaparte restored slavery to many French colonies, but his proclamation did not apply to Guadeloupe and two other islands. Napoleon then sent a



military force to recapture the Guadeloupe from the rebellious slaves, and the French military killed approximately 10,000 natives.

In 1810 the British yet again seized Guadeloupe and occupied it until 1816, although technically it was actually Swedish for a 15-month period.

In 1815, Guadeloupe went from Sweden back to France. Although the slave trade and slave importation were abolished in France and its colonies in 1815, slavery itself was not abolished on Guadeloupe (and in all French possessions) until 1848.

The issue of slavery is central to the history of Guadeloupe, being the basis of its wealth for the sugar cane crops and a key factor in revolts by both slaves and landowners. Slavery took on varied aspects in different cultures and time periods. Generally, slaves enjoyed few material benefits beyond crude lodgings, basic foods and cotton clothing. But slavery was not always absolute and slaves in some cases were able to earn money in a variety of ways. Most people are not aware that slaves in the Caribbean had need for small change. In the Caribbean of the 18th century, enslaved people on many islands had gardens where they were expected to grow their own food while not working on the plantation. Sometimes they also raised small livestock to feed themselves. If there was a surplus, these foods could be sold by the slaves at weekly markets, where both white and black inhabitants purchased much of what they ate. Thus, slaves could have their own money, and required small change. Also, overseers and planters would sometimes give small gifts of money to slaves as a reward for specific tasks, or slaves could tell fortunes, sell handicrafts, or play the fiddle at dances. With some limited assets, slaves then needed a medium of exchange to trade among themselves as well. With close communication and transportation between the Caribbean and the southern U.S., similar arrangements were common there as well, and that is why we occasionally read that a slave was able to work very hard and purchase his own freedom. Therefore, although enslaved people were not being paid for their daily labor, slaves of this era and region did acquire money from activities beyond their daily tasks, and low denomination coinage definitely circulated among them. As a low denomination “small change” coin of Guadeloupe, this coin would certainly have been used in such slave transactions.

### **Louisiana in the time period of this coin**

Louisiana changed owners a few times, but had a less dramatic history. Although New Orleans and Louisiana were first explored by the Spanish in the 1500s, European settlement began with the French in the late 1600s. France retained control of the area until 1762, when land east of the Mississippi was ceded to England, and in 1763 the land west of the Mississippi (including New Orleans) was lost to Spain. In 1800, Napoleon Bonaparte briefly reacquired Louisiana from Spain for France, but this was at least nominally a secret for the next 2 years. In 1803, the US purchased the territory from France.

### **An Historical Example**

Photographs of nice examples of this coin can be found in many of the references cited in the bibliography, but the photograph shown here is the most heavily worn example

I have seen without damage. As such, it is not an expensive collector rarity, but has a lot more character to it and history behind it than most specimens. When I started collecting coins in the early 1960s, Lincoln cents with this amount of wear were dated from about the 1920s. Therefore, I would estimate that this coin probably circulated continuously for about 40 years, at least into the 1830s. Along its long path it must have been spent by an abundance of sailors, slaves, natives of limited means, traders, and travelers in need of small change in the Caribbean area. It is interesting to speculate on the lives of the people who used it, and the market transactions in which this coin played a role. Just watching the coin change hands from owner to owner would have been an adventure. Anyone today who has taken a Caribbean cruise may have visited ports and islands where this coin was used, and yes, that may include New Orleans.

However, this does not necessarily mean that this is a U.S. Colonial coin. No doubt some of them meandered their way into New Orleans along with a wide variety of other Caribbean coinage, but they were never officially authorized for use there, or intentionally imported in large quantities. A number of them may have been brought in and spent by travelers and sailors, but the same could be said for almost any coin that circulated in the Caribbean, such as a 1740 Skilling of the Danish West Indies or a countermarked coin of Martinique. Louisiana was not a French territory in 1767, nor in 1793 when these coins were issued, and it only was nominally French for a couple of years after the coins were issued for Guadaloupe. No part of Canada was French during the period of use of these coins (except for the tiny islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, which remain French to this day.)

In a US colonial collection, it would be far more justified to incorporate British half pence, Spanish silver, a half Joe (Brazilian 6,400 *reis*) and other coins very common in the colonies and early states rather than this 12 *deniers*. Sadly, although it is an interesting coin with a fascinating history, its status as a U.S. colonial is no more justified than many other circulating European coins of the day. If I were re-writing the Redbook today, this *sol* would not be included. However, that does not detract in the slightest from its fascinating history. If I ever get back to the Caribbean on a cruise ship, I will wonder, as I pull into port, if my coin was there 200 years ago.



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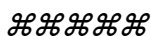
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## **FRENCH COLONIAL COINS: THE 1720 *PETIT LOUIS D'ARGENT***

(Martin L. Smith)

The year 1720 was an interesting year in France and her overseas colonies including the Great Lakes region and the Mississippi valley. The City of New Orleans, at the mouth of the Mississippi, was founded in 1719. The *Compagnie des Indes*, a French trading company, was at the heart of an empire spanning the globe with France at the center. John Law, a colonial-era con-man, was in control of the French banking system and the global trade empire. The paper money and coins issued under his direction gave rise to the infamous “Mississippi bubble”, in which monetary values were inflated, but then rapidly fell due to free-market forces. The “Mississippi bubble” is a classic lesson taught in economics classes today as the first economic “bubble” on record. The rise and fall of John Law, and his coins and currency occurred in 1720.<sup>(1)</sup>

Among the coins issued under John Law was the *one-third Ecu au Petit Louis d'Argent*, or simply *Petit Louis d'Argent*. The coin depicts a child-head bust of King Louis XV on the obverse, and four pairs of addorsed L's on the reverse, crowned and punctuated by *fleur-de-lis* (Figure 1.) The coin is listed in Breen's Encyclopedia as a Class 4 French colonial. According to Breen, coins listed as class 4 base their claim as French colonials because they “were found in Canadian hoards or mentioned in official revaluation orders.” The coin measures 27 mm in diameter.<sup>(2)</sup>

Breen indicates that most of the *Petit Louis d'Argent* mintage was from the Paris mint, carrying the A mintmark.<sup>(2)</sup> That Paris was the predominant issuing mint is confirmed by Gadoury, who lists the Paris mintage as approximately 11 million.<sup>(3)</sup> However, Gadoury also indicates that 25 branch mints struck *Petit Louis d'Argent*, with mintages ranging from 88 thousand to about 3 million.<sup>(3)</sup> The *Petit Louis d'Argent* was a one-year type struck in high-relief, being overstruck in the same year with a lower-relief design known as the *one-third Ecu de France*. Evidence of the *Petit Louis* undertype is evident on many *one-third Ecus de France* dated 1720. The lower-relief design may have been chosen to reduce die-breakage. Another reason for the demise of the *Petit Louis d'Argent* may be related to the financial collapse. Perhaps the government reasoned that a change in design would better encourage acceptance by merchants. Whatever the reasons, the original mintage figures are obscured by coins having been overstruck, in addition to melting over the many years.

I undertook to collect *Petit Louis d'Argent* as a part of a French colonial collection. Using the internet, and browsing dealer inventories in France and Canada, I have conducted a count of mintmarks of *Petit Louis d'Argent* currently available. I counted 115 coins, and added 16 of the coins to my collection over a 10-year period. Relative numbers/percentages emanating from the various mints are shown as a pie-graph in Figure 2. I confirm that Paris (A mintmark) *Petit Louis* are the least rare, but that some mints are extremely rare. (Figure 2.) The coin overall is considered rare, but I opted for the latter

mintmarks when they were available (and affordable.) To my knowledge, the cataloguing of *Petit Louis* mintmarks in the internet age is novel information.



Figure 1. A 1720 *Petit Louis d'Argent* carrying the M mintmark of the Toulouse mint.  
NGC # 2478235-006.

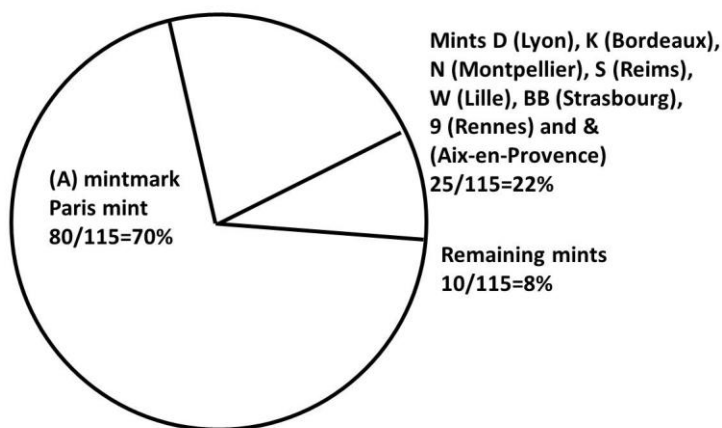
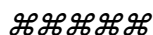


Figure 2. Pie-graph of the relative mint distribution of *Petit Louis d'Argent* available today. The majority of coins carry the A mintmark of the Paris mint. A second, rarer, group carries mintmarks D (Lyon), K (Bordeaux), N (Montpellier), S (Reims), W (Lille), BB (Strasbourg), 9 (Rennes) and & (Aix-en-Provence). A third, still rarer group includes the remaining mints. Among these are C (Caen), T (Nantes), M (Toulouse), and R (Orleans.) Others exist.

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## A TRIP TO COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

(Jeff Rock)

Colonial Williamsburg. What's not to love in those two words for those of us who collect colonial, Federal and even early American coinage? On paper it sounds like the perfect place to visit– and certainly one of the most obvious! And yet, I admit with some chagrin that having reached the half-century mark I had never set foot in this City of (Colonial) Dreams, despite getting within a couple hundred miles on numerous occasions. The March, 2017 Baltimore coin show gave me an opportunity to rectify this glaring omission, as the EAC convention was held in Philadelphia a few weeks later – and with the lunacy of airfare pricing it wasn't a whole lot more money for me to stay out on the east coast instead of flying back and forth to opposite sides of the country twice. The chance to check a number of history-nerd things off my bucket list was impossible to resist.

Staying solely in Virginia I could visit the homes of four early Presidents – Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, plus the early Jamestown settlement, plus the Jefferson-designed University of Virginia, and the even older College of William and Mary. Throw in the home of Washington's step-grand-daughter (he gave her the land, money to build the house, hired the architect and then died a short time later), a Frank Lloyd Wright house literally right next door to that home, reconstructions of Washington's mill and distillery AND a number of wineries, breweries and excellent food AND the gorgeous Shenandoah Valley? The only question remaining is why I hadn't done this sooner.



All in a day's work – 18<sup>th</sup> century style. Colonial Williamsburg is a feast for the eyes of any collector of colonial and early American coins!

But it was Colonial Williamsburg that appealed to me the most, for who could resist a wonderfully-preserved, and historically accurate reconstructed, fully functioning colonial town – albeit one with electricity, running water, credit card readers and other pleasantries of our modern life! For those not acquainted with Williamsburg and its history, it's safe to say that the colonial city we know today would not exist if it wasn't for the generosity and vision of John D. Rockefeller – a man who was so impressed by what was being done that he gave many multiples of the fortune he originally promised! Work started in 1927,

but few could believe the scope of what was being proposed. The central historical area of Williamsburg had many fine homes – but it was also a living city that had changed dramatically over several hundred years, as every city had. Many of those homes and buildings had been added to or modernized, and would need to be brought back to their original appearance; others were of a far later period and would need to be removed and buildings in earlier styles built on the sites. Some of the most historically important buildings had disappeared completely – including the Capitol and the “Governor’s Palace” (which wasn’t really a palace but called that by the residents because of the immense amount of money spent on its construction and furnishing), and would have to be reconstructed literally from below ground and up. Streets would need to be brought back to an earlier era, with concrete sidewalks removed. The gardens of every home were radically different in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from when they were first planted, and would have to be brought back to their original conditions where known, or at least redesigned with an educated guess if no contemporary description was available. The furnishings of every house and business would need to be accurate to the period – all of the original houses would have seen some modernization and the desire for new styles in over two centuries worth of being actual residences (and not museums frozen in time), and those buildings that were reconstructed would need to be furnished in an appropriate style. A few pieces of original furniture may have stayed with families that owned individual houses, and other original period pieces could be purchased elsewhere or donated by private collectors, but much would have to be reproduced.

One of the main draws of Williamsburg is that the people who work there, and the way they work are completely of the period, wherever possible; this makes the city less of a museum and more of a living historical museum, something that is both interactive and full immersion. The people working in Colonial Williamsburg wear period dress and show what daily life would have been – in the home, workshops, streets and businesses. The carpenters working there use the same type of tools that were available in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and do things as they would have been done in that era. While it would be far faster and cheaper to head down to the local Home Depot to buy machine-made tools and supplies to repair a house, the carpenters on site do things the way their brethren would have done 200-300 years ago – and no cheating with using power tools. If it was made by hand then, it was remade by hand when done by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Bricks to restore missing areas – or to build complete recreations of disappeared buildings – are made by hand in the same way the originals were, the kiln heated by wood fire and tended around the clock for nearly a week; the entire production time for bricks is around two months from start to finished product. When those bricks are put to use, the same type of mortar is used, and the practice of glazing some bricks and rubbing down others to a smooth surface (depending on their intended use) was also painstakingly recreated.

This kind of historical accuracy and attention to detail is seen in the buildings that house businesses as well. For instance, while today a computer and printer could easily turn out thousands of pages of text in a short time, the print shop operates a press with moveable type that needs to be painstakingly set by hand, the plates inked after every few impressions and the printed paper hung to dry. Seeing the sheer amount of time, energy and resources that went into this kind of work makes you appreciate how important they were to the community in an era when the only news available to most would be what came

out of that one print shop. Along with the print shop, Colonial Williamsburg trades also include a binder for books, a cabinet maker, shoe maker, gunsmith, wheelwright, weaver, tailor, milliner, cooper, carpenter, apothecary, and silversmith.

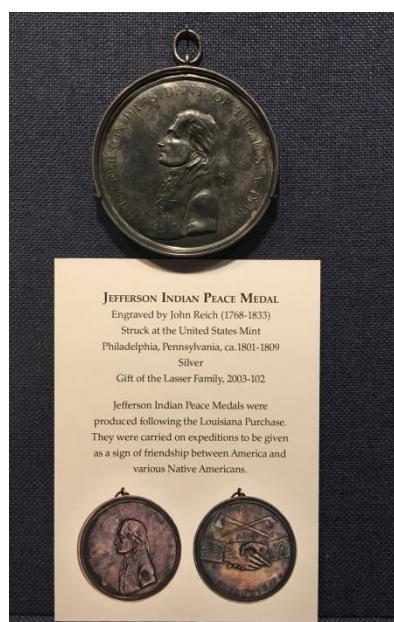


The “Governor’s Palace” in Colonial Williamsburg, on a lovely spring day. While probably looking much like it did when Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson served as post-colonial governors, the original building burnt down in 1781; this reconstruction was done in the 1930s, on the original 18<sup>th</sup> century foundation. Thomas Jefferson’s proposed changes to the building have survived, as did a 1740s copperplate engraving that allowed the reconstruction to be as accurate as possible.

But the sheer scale of this type of restoration was going to make it daunting to even consider. In this era it was difficult to reconstruct and preserve a single house, as witnessed by the reluctance of both the federal and state governments to purchase George Washington’s home, Mount Vernon, which had to be saved by the first non-profit historical preservation organization in the United States – it was founded by women in 1853, and though men of the period scoffed at the idea within 5 years they had raised a veritable fortune, about \$6 million in today’s money, to purchase the estate from Washington’s heirs. But what was being proposed in Colonial Williamsburg was the reconstruction of an entire town! That meant the purchase of as many homes and as much land as possible, eventually amounting to some 300 acres for the main historical area (with far more land preserved as open spaces.) But from the start it was something untried, a mix of ownership by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation of the buildings in the area, but not the ownership of the actual streets. There was also an independent and fully functioning church in the area that would not be owned by the Foundation. The very nature of the project also meant something of a jumbling of periods, as there were structures from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This meant that over 700 buildings that post-dated 1790 were torn down, as were some 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings that were deemed decrepit. Some 500 buildings were rebuilt completely (such as the Capitol, “Governor’s Palace” and Raleigh Tavern), and nearly 90 are today labelled as restored or original (with just minimal restoration – these are often minor buildings such as sheds, smokehouses and privies.) Most people visiting the area today would be amazed that prior to the restoration of the area that Route 60 ran right down the main road of Colonial Williamsburg today, Duke of Gloucester Street!

The amount of large-scale change needed, from buying the property, tearing down many buildings, completely rebuilding others in period style, rerouting an interstate and bringing the entire area into a harmonious whole required a LOT of money. Dr. William A. R. Goodwin, rector of Burton Parish Church and a department head at the College of

William & Mary led the charge, and without his efforts Williamsburg today would look much like any stretch of small-town America, replete with fast food restaurants, chain stores and neon signs. Unfortunately, men of God seldom have fortunes at their disposal, and Goodwin had to try and get money out of those who did. Despite not being able to interest Henry Ford and others in his venture he was lucky enough to meet with John D. Rockefeller, Jr. when the family visited the area in 1926 on their way to Hampton Institute. Goodwin gave the family the grand tour, outlining his vision and dream, and as they talked Rockefeller's interest grew; he asked to be left alone with his thoughts and soon after he announced his intention to help restore the old city – this has been called history's most expensive midnight stroll! While his initial interest was limited to the College and two houses nearby, he soon became swept up in the project, virtually underwriting the work needed to be done. His initial donation of \$5 million (over \$70 million in today's value) grew to over \$60 million over the course of his lifetime (roughly \$800 million today); so enthralled with the city was he that Rockefeller purchased a house there, Bassett Hall, and spent time every year there with his wife and family, especially in spring and autumn when the gardens would be at their most interesting. After loaning part of her incomparable collection of American folk art to Williamsburg, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller donated the collection in 1940, and in 1956 the Rockefeller family funded the building of a museum to house the collection. After the death of John D. Rockefeller III in 1978, the family retreat of Bassett Hall was donated to Colonial Williamsburg – it is one of the few buildings with an interior not reflecting the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but rather as it looked in the 1930s and 1940s when the Rockefellers restored it and lived in it – not as a gilded mansion, but as a comfortable home for their family.



A couple of the numismatic items currently on display – far more will be on view in a couple years when the Lasser Numismatic Gallery opens.

Being a numismatist of course means our ears prick up if there is anything related to coinage in the places we visit – we couldn't go to Philadelphia and not visit the Mint, right? Or hit the Smithsonian and not visit the coin room? Unthinkable! Colonial Williamsburg has a first-rate collection of coins, mostly donated by the late Joseph Lasser or purchased with funds donated by him and his family. Unfortunately, today only a handful of items are currently on display in the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, including a couple of pieces of Massachusetts silver and an original Thomas Jefferson



Indian Peace medal that are part of an exhibit on silver entitled “From Mine to Masterpiece” The collection includes some amazing treasures that are not yet on display, including an original New England Shilling, a couple of Willow Tree pieces, a Higley copper, SIX 1776 Continental “dollars,” a silver Libertas Americana medal and an amazing 4,200-piece hoard of colonial paper money from North Carolina, formed by Samuel Cornell before the Revolution. Within the next two to three years, when a current museum expansion project is completed, the “Lasser Numismatic Gallery” will open and more of these treasures will be on view. One can only imagine how many non-collectors would see them and think “wow, I would sure like to have one of those” – and maybe some would actually make the effort to learn more about what they were looking at and pursue some of those very coins as a collector. Until then, an overview of the collection is available online at the Foundation website (click the “museums” tab, and then choose the “numismatics” section from the list of overview choices.)

Williamsburg never had a mint of its own – it was the capitol of a British Colony, but England would have never given the right to coin money away to a mere colony, even a rich one; it might strike a coin for a colony, as it did with the 1773 Virginia halfpennies, but it would do so on behalf of the Crown (and, of course, make a profit on the venture.) But even though Williamsburg did not have an official mint, that didn't mean that coins weren't made there. Indeed, being the capitol, one of the most important cities in Virginia and one with many merchants, restaurants and drinking establishments (and not just alcohol, Williamsburg also sported one of the first coffee houses in America) pretty much GUARANTEED that coins were made there. Just not real ones.

While fairly small in size, Colonial Williamsburg had two venues that had the tools and knowledge to produce two different kinds of counterfeit coinage. The Blacksmith shop had experience with making objects out of metal, and making smaller pieces of metal by hand. With a couple of dies (made of metal, of course) striking planchets (also made of metal) by hand would be little different than producing nails or horseshoes. The foundry, on the other hand, would have the tools and knowledge required to make cast counterfeits of real coins – the process is absolutely no different than making cast buckles or candlesticks. Both of these venues could easily have struck counterfeit copper coins, and the forge could also have produced silver cast pieces as well (as could a silversmith or goldsmith, both of which also operated in the city.) Both the blacksmith and foundry produce metal items today that are for sale in the shops nearby, and one of the things offered are – you guessed it – counterfeit coins (sold with the COPY stamp applied, of course.) Very rarely Mexican silver “pillar” dollars are produced (and apparently sell quickly), while cast counterfeit British halfpennies are more commonly available in the shops, though they are unfortunately priced in today's money and the shop keeper declined a trade of a real George III halfpence for one of the counterfeit ones – his counterpart 250 years ago would have jumped at the chance for such a trade but things have changed in that time period and the counterfeits today are often worth far more than the real coins they imitated.

Senior Curator of Mechanical Arts and Numismatics, Erik Goldstein (a familiar face at many national shows and popular instructor at the ANA Summer Seminar,) arranged for this writer to get some first-hand experience with counterfeiting in Colonial Williamsburg with a “behind the scenes” at the cast counterfeit coin making. The foundry



was reconstructed behind the James Geddy house, a fitting location since the Geddy family worked with metals for over half a century, including making guns, swords, cutlery, operating a brass foundry and later, as silversmiths and jewelers. While there is no evidence that the Geddys ever cast counterfeit coins (though others certainly did), they certainly would have had the knowledge to do so – and all the equipment needed. However, in 1753 a 24-year old silversmith named Lowe Jackson was caught counterfeiting gold coins, tried and received the expected sentence for the time – hung by the neck, until dead; his trial and punishment have been reenacted at Colonial Williamsburg, something a numismatist would clearly enjoy. So there is precedent for counterfeiting occurring in Williamsburg and the Foundation is to be commended on the decision to present both the good parts of 18<sup>th</sup> century life, as well as the darker underside of 18<sup>th</sup> century life.

The foundry is ably run by Mike Noftsgger (nicknamed “Lob” since his face usually takes on the color of a well-cooked lobster after working over the blazing fires used to melt various metals) and Susie Dye, and today turns out spoons, buckles, candlesticks, knobs, bells and other things appropriate for the time, making items in bronze, brass, pewter and silver, many of which are sold in the shops nearby. The process is in-house, literally from start to finish. Scrap metal is heated over a large furnace, the flames not produced by gas but painstakingly started and fed with wood and coal, as would have been done 250 years earlier. The molds are made in the type of sand that would have been available, hand framed in wood, and the tools used in every step of the process are historically accurate. When the metal is melted and reaches the correct color (the only way to tell its temperature in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) it is poured into the molds, allowed to cool, and then the cast products are broken out, cleaned and polished by hand. Had one of the Geddys suddenly materialized in the foundry he would have been able to get straight to work – though he might be confused by the oddly-dressed people holding up cameras and phones to record his progress!

The counterfeit coins cast from these molds will be looked at more closely in a following article, but following are some photographs of the casting process itself.



Some of the many objects cast at the foundry, in a variety of metals and alloys, all produced with great skill (the originals that the objects are cast from are in the Colonial Williamsburg collection.)



At left, Mike “Lob” Noftsger building the structure that holds the casting trees – three different trees are used at the same time in this demonstration. At right, “Lob” pouring the white-hot molten brass into the counterfeit casting molds, his face showing how his nickname was earned. Note the tools of the trade lining the walls.



At left, one of the casting trees after the mold was broken open, still in the casting sand used. At right, two of the finished casting trees, each with 10 coins still attached. Each coin would be broken off, the rough edges filed off and the coin polished up before entering circulation (or in this case, offered for sale at one of the shops.) Only one original coin was used to make all of these casts – that coin created each image in the tree, and subsequent casts are used in the production of further trees as needed.

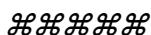
I doubt that there is a single reader of this journal who would not jump at the chance to climb into a time machine and be whisked back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century for a while (sorry, you can't bring back any mint red Date under Plow Beam New Jersey coppers on your return trip though.) This is what a trip to Colonial Williamsburg really is – a chance to connect with the past and experience what things were like for the people living at the time of the coins we collect. If you have been to this living history museum, great – and it's

probably time to go again when the numismatic collection is on display! If you haven't been yet, then it's time to plan a vacation and get there soon! Admission tickets are a fraction of what a theme park runs today, and it is an affordable and enjoyable vacation for an entire family (and hotel rooms in the area are not pricey at all.) A word of advice though: buy the multiple-day pass which is usually less than \$10 more than a single day visit, because you will want to come back again; not all houses are open on all days, and going back a couple days will allow you to see even more, as well as to notice things you may have missed the first time around. There are several dining choices in the historic area, as well as in the shopping district a few blocks away – and plenty more near the hotels (and if some of the family isn't as interested in history there are plenty of more modern attractions nearby, including a large outlet mall and a Busch Gardens theme park.) If you can stay for longer, a week pass is offered that gets you into all of Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Jamestown and Settlement, and the Yorktown Battlefield and the American Revolution Museum there as well – and the entire week will cost you less than a day at Disneyworld!

And if you find that you just aren't ready to return to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, don't worry – you may be welcome to stay on as a guest at the 1773 “Public Hospital for Persons of Insane and Disordered Minds,” the first in America to solely treat the mentally ill – and most of us collectors certainly have friends and family that think such a place is actually where we belong. Accommodations, as seen below, are a bit Spartan – but maybe the staff would let us bring in a few numismatic books to pass the time.



You DID ask for the deluxe room, right?



## **LORD HARINGTON'S PATENT FARTHING OF JAMES I: THE EARLIEST COLONIAL COINAGE**

(Mark A. Sportack)

The patent farthings produced by Lord Harington aren't traditionally considered a North American colonial coinage. The arguments against including them as a colonial coinage are fairly solid. They were privately made in England under Royal Patent from King James I to satisfy the demand for low-value circulating currency in England. Although there was an undeniable need for a low-value circulating currency, Harington's patent farthings failed miserably as a medium of exchange in England, and quickly disappeared from circulation. From just about any angle, these farthings are nothing more than a failed English token issue, and justifiably excluded from the domain of North American colonial coinage.

There is, however, a nagging contravening bit of evidence that suggests we can't quite compartmentalize the patent farthings as just an amusing artifact from Merry Olde England. In fact, archaeological evidence proves the Harington farthings of King James I comprised the majority of a circulating coinage in Jamestown, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

### **The History of the Patent**

The story of the patent farthings begins in 1612 with John Harington, Baron of Exton, known as Lord Harington, and Gerard De Malynes pitching the idea of a privately manufactured farthing to the King. The Duke of Lennox recognized the merits – and the potential for profit – of this concept and fought for the King to grant him the patent instead of Harington. Harington, however, had the “inside track” on this deal. For years, Harington had covered the debts incurred by the King's daughter (Princess Elizabeth) caused by her uncontrolled spending.<sup>2</sup> This strained him financially, but also gave him leverage over the King. Harington used this leverage to gain approval from King James I for the private manufacture of farthing tokens. Since both Harington and the King<sup>3</sup> foresaw huge profits from this venture, it seems likely that the King granted the patent to Harington in return for forgiving the Princess's debts, though no specific record exists to validate this theory.

Harington was granted a 3-year patent effective 19 May 1613. He is generally credited with creating the Type 1a tin-coated farthings, but it is highly unlikely that the first Lord Harington ever saw the start of production in his nascent token house. He passed away on 23 August 1613. His business records show that he hired his production team effective 4 August 1613, and placed an order for the roller presses on 6 August 1613. The fact that he died £40,000 in debt suggests that, in addition to covering the Princess's debts, Lord Harington invested in his business venture without realizing any significant profit from it. Given how soon he passed away after ordering the hardware for his Token House, it is safe to assume that Lord Harington didn't produce any of his eponymous farthings.

<sup>1</sup> Personal notes of Dr. Beverly Straube's archeological findings in various contexts related to James Towne, Virginia.

<sup>2</sup> It was customary for Royal heirs to be raised apart, as a means of guarding against an accident or other “event” that could effectively end the Royal blood line. The selection of Harington as guardian was, by no means, a coincidence. The King and Lord Harington were brothers-in-law, having married sisters. Thus, the Haringtons were a logical and trusted choice for raising the Princess.

<sup>3</sup> King James I granted the patent to Lord Harington in return for an ever-increasing cut of the profits.



Upon the death of Lord Harington, his son John Harington, the second Baron of Exton, assumed ownership of the patent as well as his debts. He attempted to extricate himself from his father's mess by selling the patent to the Duke of Lennox (his father's old rival.) Lennox and the Second Lord Harington apparently agreed to a sale in December 1613. This deal was thwarted by Harington's mint master, Gerard De Malynes, and other workers who refused to allow the sale. That may sound strange, but Gerard and three of his brothers basically ran the fledgling mint and owned a bonded interest in it. Although the de Malynes family succeeded in maintaining control of the Token House in the days after the death of John Harington, this would prove to be a Pyrrhic victory.

Forced into inheriting his father's debts and failed business venture, the Second Lord Harington committed himself to turning a profit from the patent. Though no records exist to prove this, it appears that the young John Harington deferred technical and operational decisions to de Malynes. After all, de Malynes grew up the son of a mint master. Harington, though highly intelligent and educated, was more a student of the arts and Romance languages than the sciences of business management, manufacturing or mechanical engineering.

One of the more intriguing aspects of these patent farthings is that many of his early products featured a tin coating. Some, but not all, of his first batch of patent farthings, were treated to this coating. There is no consistency as to privy mark, though some privy marks are more likely to have it than others. Lord Harington (courtesy of the de Malynes brothers) began production of patent farthings with an unusual plan. Their farthings were intended to simulate a silver farthing. Thus, the copper flans were intentionally undersize and underweight relative to a farthing's worth of copper. Prior to minting, the sheet copper was treated to a thin coating of tin on both sides. Tin was ostensibly chosen for its silver-like appearance and low cost. The result was a coin that looked like it was made from a farthing's worth of silver, though it was worth far less.

The Type 1a farthings were the first in Harington's effort to create a privately manufactured circulating coinage. Type 1a Harington farthings are all approximately 12-13mm in diameter and weigh approximately 5.5 grains. Everson lists the recorded range of weights as being from 3.6 to 7.6 grains.

This range is quite wide due to several factors including:

- the profusion of curved- and straight-clipped specimens,
- the extent to which any given farthing has suffered loss of mass due to circulation,
- the extent to which any given farthing has suffered loss of mass due to environmental or other post-strike damage, and,
- the presence of tinned surfaces on some of these farthings.

The Type 1a farthings feature nine different privy marks. These include the letters A, B, C, D, F and S as well as the symbols known as a millrind, pellet, and ermine. While the pellet and ermine privies are illustrated throughout this paper, the millrind is not. It resembles a wide, rounded X with a knot at the center. There is no known rationale for why these letters and symbols were selected. They don't appear to correspond to names of known mint workers. The letters are also substantially smaller than those in the legends, thus they would have had to be created specifically as privy punches. All privy marks were punched below the crown,



between the scepter handles. Please note that privy placement was a proximity exercise: some examples are seen with the privy punched higher or lower than desired. Overlap with scepter handles and/or the body of the crown itself are not unusual. Such overlap can make it more difficult to positively identify a privy mark, especially if a farthing is worn, was struck from a degraded die, or has suffered environmental damage.

Picture 1 shows a Pellet Privy. The pellet is nothing more than a dot. It can be seen in the usual place for the 1a types: beneath the crown, and between the scepter handles. The Harington family icon (a stylized knot) was placed on the harp side of the farthing. It can be seen in Picture one sandwiched between the crown and the F in FRA. This icon could be thought of as a mint mark: it identified the coin as a product of the Harington family.

Picture 1:  
Type 1a with Pellet Privy



The public was not fooled by these faux silver coins. Many towns simply rejected shipments of the farthings. Other towns accepted them but their inhabitants quickly exchanged them for real silver coins. Harington's records indicate that these farthings were being returned at a faster rate than they could be made!<sup>4</sup>

The lack of profits did not escape the King's attention. He ordered Julius Caesar, (no, not the Roman Emperor,) Chancellor of the Exchequer to King James I, to keep meticulous records about the Haringtons' progress. As far as the King was concerned, there was big money at stake! Julius tells us that as of October 1613 just over £500 was successfully dispersed into circulation, much of which was promptly redeemed for silver. Julius also noted that many of tokens were rejected by the general public. Given that the King's granting of this patent was based on an expected share of the profits, which he had optimistically estimated to be £60,000 per year, this endeavor seemed more a failed experiment than profit-making venture!

Julius' records also indicate a heavy return rate for these new farthings. Heavy re-changing of farthings amounted to between £40 and £50 worth of farthings redeemed daily. That translates into between 38,400 and 48,000 farthings being withdrawn daily. Given that the mint's maximum sustainable production rate was between 20,000 and 25,000 farthings per day, it is safe to declare the small flan Harington farthings a failed coinage. The mathematical discrepancy between the quantities of farthings made versus returned per day suggest the return rate was not sustainable. Either the returned farthings were put back into circulation, or Julius Caesar cited a high-water mark as opposed to actual daily or averaged return rates.

<sup>4</sup> Everson, Tim, *The Galata Guide to The Farthing Tokens of James I and Charles I – A history and reclassification*, Llanfyllin, Wales, Galata Print Ltd., 2007, p. 67.

The Second Lord Harington must have felt the weight of the world on his shoulders. He inherited a mess, and then the man whom his father trusted created an even bigger mess with his scheme to maximize profits by creating fake silver coins. No one was fooled, and the tiny size of the paper-thin farthing added to the public's resistance. Production of the Type 1a farthings ceased very quickly, perhaps within as little as 2 or 3 months.

It's clear that young John Harington was aware of the public's resistance to his tinned farthings. Instead of inheriting a literal money-making business, he found himself at a very tender age responsible for salvaging the family fortune and reputation. The Second Lord Harington was forced to carefully consider what went wrong with his first batch of farthings. They were small in both size and weight,<sup>5</sup> and had been tinned to make them look as if made from silver. Clearly, that didn't work.

With the benefit of hindsight but not business records, we can observe that not all of the Type 1a farthings were tinned. There appears to be no pattern to the tinning vis-à-vis privy marks. If the tinning was part of a deliberate plan to improve profitability, consistency should have been one of the keys to success. Concurrently (or very nearly so!) producing tinned and untinned farthings of the same size, shape, and even privy mark would have put the lie to the notion that they were silver. Thus, it's difficult to imagine any scenario other than a desperation to reduce operating costs that would result in the creation of untinned farthings so early in the life of the patent.

Another subtle problem was that tin-coated farthings (as well as tin-coated scissel) weren't recyclable the way copper scissel was. Scissel, the scrap metal left after farthings were punched out of the rolled fillets, was regularly sold back to the copper producers. Unlike scrap copper (scissel and unacceptable copper farthings,) Harington apparently had few options for all those tin-coated farthings that were returned. It seems most likely that the Second Lord Harington abandoned the tin coating as a means of improving operating margin in the midst of minting his first batch of farthings. Subsequent batches of farthings were produced using the same dies, albeit without the tin coating. Never again would a patent farthing be issued with a tin coating.<sup>6</sup>

Julius Caesar admonished young John Harington to NOT change the dies until he had made at least £20,000. He either was too subtle about this point or young John Harington disregarded his advice as production continued with a series of design changes. Although the actual reasons behind the design changes were not documented, there's no suggestion that the initial batches of tokens failed due to the designs or artistry. We also know that counterfeiting was not yet an issue, as no one was counterfeiting an unpopular and unsuccessful token. Consequently, design changes to stay ahead of counterfeiters can also safely be ruled out as the motive for design change.

<sup>5</sup> The original patent granted by King James I stipulated that one avoirdupois pound of copper make 24s 3d worth of shillings, yielding a target weight of 6 grains of copper per farthing. Everson cites the average weight of a Type 1a farthing as 5.5 grains.

<sup>6</sup> It is quite possible that during the transition of the patent that some tin-coated sheet copper changed hands and was used in the manufacture of Lennox' patent farthings. I have a Lennox Type 1 farthing with bell privy that is tinned.

Regardless of the motive, the second attempt at rolling patent farthings witnessed the introduction of new privy marks (and the retirement of the previous ones), as well as relocation of that privy. These farthings, which Everson designated his Harington Type 1b, featured the central jewel of the obverse crown's band replaced with a privy. These new marks include the trefoil (or clover), crescent, and a mullet (five-pointed star.) One can also argue that the ermine privy from the Type 1a farthings is best classified as a Type 1b. Please consider the rather unusually prominent privy on the obverse crown's band in Picture 2.



Picture 2: Type 1a with Ermine Privy

Add to that the fact that there are no known tinned examples of the ermine privy, as well as multiple examples known with this privy placement, and one can make a convincing case that the ermine privy should be categorized as a Harington Type 1b. The

truth is that the ermine privy is known with examples of farthings that feature privies both on the crown's band as well as beneath the crown. Thus, it could be correctly identified as a Type 1a, a Type 1b, or possibly both.

For comparison, Picture 3 shows a Type 1b farthing with a mullet privy. As you can see, it is virtually identical (aside from the subtle differences one would expect to find on a die made by hand) to the ermine privy farthing in the preceding picture.



Picture 3: Type 1a with Mullet Privy

Despite ditching the tin coating, and focusing on improving operational efficiency in his Token House, the young Lord Harington's financial and personal woes continued to mount. February 1614 was an auspicious month in the Harington family. Within a span of approximately 2 weeks, young John Harington made numerous life-changing decisions:

- He was forced to sell his lordship to remain solvent, and keep his Token House operating.
- He drafted and endorsed his Last Will and Testament to ensure his mother and sisters were cared for in the event of his death.
- He cleaned house! Recognizing that the ruinous advice of his mintmaster was the source of his predicament, he sacked the Malines brothers.
- He died.

Though history has kindly neglected to record the circumstances of his death, young John's actions in the fortnight preceding his death may easily be construed as preparatory. He suffered great personal tragedy, including the loss of his father and the loss of his "dear friend," Prince Henry Phillip. It's easy to understand how a 21-year-old suffering such devastating personal loss plus the frustrations of his inherited debt and dysfunctional Token House, would be depressed and overwhelmed. His final actions seem intended to ensure his mother and sisters be freed of his strife.

Even though the young John Harington was relatively flush with funds after selling his lordship (he did still have to repay the Princess' debts), he repaid Gerard de Malines' bond in a spiteful way. He repaid the £2,000 bond with 1,920,000 worthless Type 1a farthings and £500 prepared sheet copper. In essence, de Malines' bond was satisfied but he was still destitute! (Most of the surviving high-grade examples can be safely assumed to be from the 1,920,000 farthings paid to de Malynes to satisfy his bond.)

With John's passing, and the sacking of the de Malines brothers, production in the token house all but ceased. There is some speculation that Lady Harington (wife of the first Lord Harington, and mother of the second) halted production to ensure that she had clear title to the patent. There may be some truth to this. However, without sheet copper, the presses would have been idled regardless of the status of the patent. Production continued under Lady Harington, albeit at a snail's pace from March through May 1614. Her records indicate that from 27 February through 19 May, his Token House minted 301 pounds of copper into £369 in farthings. That's just 354,240 coins or about 8% of the total Harington farthings minted.

There are no records sufficiently detailed to identify which Haringtons produced which privy-marked farthings. The emission sequence posited in this paper is based on pre-existing numismatic research as well as my own. However, the only farthing variety that can rationally be attributed to Lady Harington is the Type 1c with its goofy and indescribable privy. This variety is shown in Picture 4.



Picture 4: Type 1c with Hard-to-Describe Privy



Great debate has been generated as to which farthings were made by the Lady Harington. Did she continue to make small flan farthings like her son, or did she completely retool the token house to make a larger farthing while simultaneously trying to negotiate a sale? That doesn't seem very logical. She would likely have been low on funds and her son had sacked everyone with technological capabilities. Lady Harington would have been very hard-pressed to retool production in the short time she operated the patent with what little talent she had left!

Although we may never know for certain which farthings she made, there are some tantalizing clues embodied in the farthings themselves, as well as her business records. Conventional wisdom attributes the larger flan "Harington" Type 2 farthings to Lady Harington, but that also doesn't appear logical. The Type 2 series featured five different mint marks (cinquefoil, cross saltire, lis, mullet, and trefoil) as well as a larger flan and myriad minor changes to the design's features. The Type 2 Harington farthings also appear to have been made using new letter punches. The familiar defective "A" punch seen on all Type 1 farthings no longer appears.

Additionally, the surviving population of Type 2 Harington farthings strongly suggests a high-volume operation with many of the known varieties being quite common. That is highly inconsistent with Lady Harington's limited production volume. Thus, I suggest that the Harington Type 2 farthings really are the first generation of farthings produced under the auspices of the Duke of Lennox. Adding weight to this theory is that the Harington knot – for the first time – does NOT appear anywhere in the farthing's design. The Type 1c, on the other hand, is a rare one-privy type. Its surviving population is much more closely aligned with the notion of a Token House starved for copper and desperately seeking a new owner while coping with the loss of numerous talented (albeit misguided) workers. Even the privy mark betrays an inexperienced hand. It is simple and crude, and in no way resembles any other iconography found in England. It was, however, an easy privy punch to make! The privy show in Picture 4 makes it clear that it wasn't made with a punch but rather was two stops accompanied by two hand-engraved lines that were supposed to meet at an angle.

One last point to consider is that Lady Harington's farthings would not have been retained in a great lot as had the Types 1a and 1b which comprised the bulk of de Malynes' bond repayment. Thus, one would expect her farthings to be the rarest of all the small flan farthings. That certainly describes the Type 1c farthings!

In June 1614, Lady Harington sold the patent to Lord Lennox. This concluded the Haringtons' involvement in patent farthings, and marked a new era of successful token minting under more skilled and capable hands. Yet, the story of the Harington patent farthings does not end there! The politics and intrigue surrounding them persisted for years afterward.

### **James Towne: A Second Chance for an Unloved Farthing**

The first indication that Jamestown may have had a circulating currency was found at the Martin's Hundred by Dr. Ivor Noël Hume.<sup>7</sup> Martin's Hundred was a plantation a short distance away from James Towne Fort. This farthing was a virtually uncirculated example of a Harington Type 1a.

<sup>7</sup> Hume, Dr. Ivor Noël, *Martin's Hundred*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1982, pp. 224-226. ISBN 0-394-50728-2.



Specifically, it was a tinned “A” privy that Everson designates his Everson Variety #2.<sup>8</sup> Picture 5 shows the obverse and reverse of a Type 1a with “A” privy from my collection. The “A” is visible beneath the Obverse crown, and in between the scepter handles.



Picture 5: Harington Type 1a farthing with “A” privy

Hume was confounded by this discovery; not only was this farthing in the wrong place, it was also archaeologically in the wrong timeframe. It was virtually uncirculated, yet was found in a context that was known to date to 1619 – six years after the token failed in England. Had the farthing remained in circulation that long, it would have exhibited considerable signs of wear. This one appeared virtually uncirculated.

Hume theorized that someone had a significant stockpile of these farthings, and used them to supply a coinage for Jamestown. Presumably due to a lack of further evidence, Hume’s own archaeological team didn’t support his theory. Despite that lack of support, he documented both his find and theory in his book. His theory was later validated by Dr. Bly Straube’s archeological research that revealed Harington farthings comprised approximately 1/3 of the coins found within the context of the James Towne settlement. The fact that her research supports the existence of a circulating currency in James Towne is quite significant. No first-hand accounts describe a circulating currency though Captain John Smith’s *Generall Historie* of 1624 provides evidence of a complex economy that would have been difficult to have without some form of money. That Dr. Straube’s research finds that small flan Harington farthings comprised the bulk of the circulating currency is even more significant: her findings inform the search for a source.

### **Captain John Smith**

It is impossible to tell James Towne’s story without also telling Captain John Smith’s story. His life’s experiences shaped his personality, which forms the editorial lens through which we have come to know James Towne. As valuable as Smith’s *Generall Historie* of 1624 is, one must keep its contents in the proper context. Captain John Smith was anything but an objective author. His writings document the dramatic decline of a colony due to incompetence, mismanagement, indifference, greed and even some mean-spirited politics.

<sup>8</sup> Everson, p.12.

He takes great pains to chronicle his role in “righting the ship” and any pain or suffering experienced was caused by those who thwarted his efforts to protect and support the colony. He fixates on the tempestuous relationship with Powhatan and his tribe, yet portrays himself as a political master who always got the better of the cunning Indian chief.

Smith never misses an opportunity to literarily attack those he disliked. He was motivated by the desire to burnish his place in history, and to present himself as the manliest of men. His celebration of masculinity was not accidental; it was compensatory. This is particularly ironic – and completely understandable – when one recognizes that he was likely emasculated one night when his powder bag inexplicably exploded as he slept. He likely had more people trying to kill him inside the palisaded walls of James Towne than outside!

Smith was never what anyone could call a model citizen, nor was he a positive influence amongst the colonists. He was not high-born, yet claimed to have descended from the ancient Smith family of Cuedley, Lancashire despite not being from there. He left home at the age of 16 upon the death of his father, and became a mercenary. During his tenure as a mercenary, he distinguished himself in battle, proving particularly adept at single-combat where he defeated three Turks in separate engagements. Eventually, he was wounded in battle and captured. Captured soldiers were typically sold as slaves, and Smith was no exception. As luck would have it, Smith found himself the property of a wealthy Greek woman who fell in love with him. This apparently made escape easier. He eventually made his way back to England in 1604, thus ending an 8-year odyssey.

Smith was subsequently employed by the Virginia Company and set sail for the colony in December of 1606 with 103 other colonists. During the 5-month voyage, Smith did not ingratiate himself to his fellow colonists. He was a rough-cut sort, and he resented anyone with power or wealth. At some point in the journey, he was charged with mutiny by Captain Christopher Newport and sentenced to death. No details of the crime itself have survived. The mutiny must have occurred at the very end of the voyage as the punishment was not meted out. Instead, upon arrival in The New World, the orders from the Company were unsealed. To everyone’s astonishment, Smith was named one of 8 men chosen by the Company to form the governing body in James Towne.

Rather than execute him, his sentence was reduced to simply loss of status: he was kicked off the governing board. He should have been thrilled with getting off so lightly, but he wasn’t. His experience of being charged with mutiny and being removed from a position of power angered Smith in a way that burned with incandescent fury.

The object of his rage was anyone of superior social or economic status that he regarded as inferior to himself. For example, the ships’ passenger lists reveal that more than 50% of the colonists were “gentlemen.” Smith, as a sailor and mercenary, had little regard for the genteel, noting that they consumed resources disproportionate to their value. Generally, they were unused to physical labor, accustomed to living high on the hog, and demanded the respect that their birthright afforded them back home. That there were so many of them did not sit well with Smith. He repeatedly referred to them as “useless parasites” throughout his *Generall Historie*. That they were sent to him without provisions enraged him and further reinforced his belief that the wealthy Company owners were idiots.

Smith’s rage was not diminished by his early experiences in James Towne. Of the 104 colonists brought over by Newport in 1607, more than 60 had died by the time Newport

returned to the colony with the first supply ship in January 1608. This mission quickly met with disaster. Through the carelessness of some of the new arrivals, the James Towne settlement caught fire and burned. They had to endure the winter living in the burnt shells of their wooden homes. Next, they wasted three months' worth of time and provisions by focusing on retrieving and loading iron pyrite-bearing rocks into Newport's ship. Newport incorrectly believed it was gold ore. He apparently needed his journey to pay for itself, yet the colony was not yet strong enough to sustain itself much less return economic value to the Adventurers. Thus, the discovery of a large deposit of what appeared to be gold ore seemed serendipitous.

One step below the gentlemen on the colony's socioeconomic spectrum were the merchants and highly skilled craftsmen. Craftsmen were valuable, IF they possessed skills that were useful in the colony. The supply ship that landed in January 1608 brought 120 colonists. Of that number, 54 were gentlemen. The newly arrived colonists included a cooper, a blacksmith, and a gunsmith. These were critical skills, but the colony also needed soldiers and planters. However, some of the other skills sent to the colony were rather arbitrary. Six were tailors. Two others were apothecaries. Two metal refiners and two goldsmiths were also amongst the new arrivals. Clearly, the Virginia Company was expecting to find – indeed, preparing for – rich deposits of gold and silver. The biggest surprise, however, was that this group included a jeweler and a perfume maker! Taken as a microcosm of society, and one can see that the vision for James Towne was that of a miniature replica of English society, replete with all its modern conveniences and luxuries. To drive the creation of an economy within this nascent society, a merchant class was dispatched. This is noteworthy for two main reasons:

1. The expectations of the Company couldn't have been more out of touch with reality in the colony. The Company was sending gentlemen and merchants by the hundreds while the colony was dying of starvation, disease, and violence from the indigenous people. It was more focused on building expertise in James Towne needed to extract, refine, and export precious metals where none existed.
2. Unlike soldiers who would have been paid by the Adventurers, merchants and craftsmen would have expected to make a profit from their labors. That the supply ships weren't really supplying much beyond new colonists strongly suggests the Adventurers wouldn't be subsidizing the merchants' businesses. They were there to build a business amongst a predominantly wealthy and completely captive customer base. This profit motive also suggests the presence of a circulating currency.

Smith, in his *Generall Historie*, recognizes the profit motive as well as the presence of a sophisticated merchant-based economy when he rants about the greed exhibited by the “merchants and others.” In doing so, he also suggests that English-denominated money circulated there. He criticizes the “Nobilitie and Gentry” claiming they are only invested in the colony for profit, and expect every action to be judged based on its contribution to their personal prosperity. He also claims that there are some Merchants who continually overcharge for their services. He regards this as worse than a sacrilege; even if it were a wealthy person that was being overcharged. He holds the mission of protecting the colony and all who dwell within it as noble and sacred. Thus, to see a merchant taking advantage of fellow colonists by grossly overcharging for their services is both inexcusable and unforgivable. Smith cites examples of such egregious behaviors, which he regarded as equally unacceptable regardless

of the sum of money involved. Extorting a poor soldier of an extra penny for merchandise was as bad as overcharging a gentleman a shilling.

Regardless of pricing structure, Smith makes it abundantly clear that the colony would be better served if the Company would send goods rather than merchants and craftsmen who could manufacture and sell things locally. Likewise, the colony really needed laborers, planters, and soldiers rather than the merchants and craftsmen that they expected would produce useful goods from locally-sourced materials that could be sold to the colonists or sent home to defray the cost of the supply ships.

Captain Newport returned to James Towne in October 1608 with yet another load of 70 colonists, including some European craftsmen and the first women to be made available as wives to the colonists. The ship contained no food stores other than what Newport and his crew needed for their return trip to England. Worse, Newport presented Smith with orders from the Company for him to fund Newport's voyage with local goods such as pine pitch, lumber, gold, etc. Clearly, Newport was not happy to have dragged so many worthless rocks back to England and was determined to put the onus on Smith to ensure the profitability of this trip. Smith believed these orders to be forgeries and refused to comply.

Smith was further infuriated by his ongoing interactions with Newport and the Company. He had risen to power through attrition, and reveled in it. To hear him tell it, he was doing everything he could to keep colonists alive and – despite his heroic efforts – more than half had died. Yet, the company continued to send gentlemen and women but none of the material or logistical support desperately needed by the colony.

Smith was elected president of the Towne's governing council and called a meeting to announce dramatic changes. No longer would James Towne be a microcosm of English society. Food would only be supplied to those who worked for the betterment of the colony. This applied universally, but was designed to apply specifically to the high-born gentlemen and merchant class – everyone else was already working hard to support the colony. This effectively created a survival-oriented meritocracy. It wouldn't have mattered how much money you had nor how prestigious your birthright was; if you didn't work toward the betterment of the colony, you didn't eat.

By the spring of 1609, life for the colonists had greatly improved. Buildings were rebuilt or repaired, crops had been planted and, with everyone working the colony was prospering. At least, that was the view from inside the palisades. Powhatan's tribe was not at all pleased with the ever-increasing numbers of settlers, nor their demands for more and more of his food. Smith's approach of pretending to be friendly while holding stout British guns wore quite thin with Powhatan. Smith's policies earned him even more enemies. His institution of survival-based meritocracy earned him few friends amongst the wealthy and noble families inside the Towne.

Despite improved living conditions, Smith's existence was quite precarious. He was surrounded by unpredictable but increasingly hostile natives and colonists. While on an expedition on the river, Smith slept with his weapons and ammunition on his person. Even though there were sentries standing watch, the leather gunpowder sack that Smith had suspended from his belt ignited causing severe burns to his upper inner thighs. History has politely declined to say if anything else in that region was affected, but it's hard to imagine

otherwise. It's equally hard to imagine how gunpowder, stored as it was inside a leather pouch, could have ignited accidentally.

Smith departed James Towne in mid-October 1609 to obtain proper medical care in London. He was bitter about the circumstances of his departure, and understandably so. He never married, never fathered any children, and publicly regarded the James Towne colony as his child. And he was deeply resentful of those he deemed responsible for the decline of his baby, and angry at those who forced him to depart.

Smith's *Generall Historie*, therefore, was his catharsis. In it, he ensured his place in history by casting himself in the role of savior and hero, while blatantly attacking the noblemen whom he regarded as little more than a cancer in the colony. Once you get past the obvious author bias, there are valuable insights into life in James Towne during its earliest days. After Smith's departure, one could argue the level of tension in the town decreased while the relationship with Powhatan and his tribe continued to deteriorate.

As the town grew during the 1610s, the local tribes became increasingly hostile toward them. They may have taken pity on a few dozen folks trying to subsist in a swamp, but the continuous arrival of hundreds of new colonists, and their claim and impact on the local terrain, was unacceptable. Tensions grew as the colonists became more numerous and staked increasingly expansive claims to the Indians' land. The colony expanded beyond the confines of the original stockade and began to more closely resemble a series of small settlements with an interconnected economy.

In 1618, the ship *Guift of God* departed England with 220 settlers intending to settle a 20,000-acre tract of land that would become known as Martin's Hundred (after a subset of The Virginia Company's owners, the Martin's Hundred Society, that funded it.) It was more properly known as Wolstenholme Towne. The fort built at this outpost was constructed in 1619, and was where Dr. Hume's team found the Harington A privy patent farthing. The timing was such that de Malynes was imprisoned for indebtedness shortly after this ship left for The New World. Given that the settlers on this ship were specifically sent to establish ownership of 100-acre tracts and establish Wolstenholme Towne, the Harington farthing must have been carried across the Atlantic on the *Guift of God*. It seems unlikely, as Hume noted, that a single specimen would have been carried over as pocket change simply because it was a representative of a quickly-failed coinage, and that it appeared virtually uncirculated when found. It seems much more likely it was part of a large shipment of failed coins, likely obtained at a discount by an owner in the Company, to facilitate commerce in the new settlement.

Dr. Hume's other findings demonstrate that, as the Virginia Company's investment in Virginia grew, so too did the demand for the luxuries of home. Some were shipped from England while others were locally produced. Amongst their numerous findings were delftware tiles, decorative fireplace backing plates and tools, and gold thread and points woven into the clothes worn by rich English gentlemen as a means of demonstrating their wealth. Clearly, Smith's meritocracy had served its purpose and was quickly abandoned after the colony returned to growth and prosperity. Merchants and craftsmen could continue to ply their trades for profit.

Coinage, ironically, may have been more valuable to the Indians than to the colonists even in a prosperous environment. The Indians were always keen to acquire copper as they lacked the means to mine and refine it. The colonists were in the habit of trading scrap copper



sent from England to them. The natives would melt it down to make tools and/or weapons. It's quite possible that at least some of Harington's farthings were ultimately repurposed in this way. Smith noted that one square inch of sheet copper (thickness and weight not stipulated) was valued at one bushel of corn by the Indians. Imagine being able to purchase a bushel of corn for less than a handful of worthless obsolete farthings!

There is no concrete evidence to conclusively identify a source for a theoretical stockpile of uncirculated patent farthings being supplied to James Towne. No records or ledger entries exist that would support any concern on the part of the Virginia Company to establish a circulating currency in James Towne. Yet, we know that a massive stockpile of uncirculated patent farthings actually existed. More importantly, its owner – Gerard De Malynes<sup>9</sup> – was left destitute as a result of his involvement with the Harington Token House. Lord Harington Junior repaid his bond with almost two million Harington farthings that he was desperate to monetize. It seems clear that at least some of those unwanted farthings made their way to the New World.

The A privy farthing unearthed by Hume's team in Wolstenholme was found in a defensive structure known to have been built in 1619, when de Malynes was imprisoned in Fleet prison for indebtedness. Could he have found a way to liquidate at least a part of his stockpile of farthings by supplying James Towne? Did his stockpile, or a part of it, travel to The New World aboard the *Guift of God*?

A connection between de Malynes and Virginia is not far-fetched, nor hard to find. The 1620 census of Adventurers (investors) in the Virginia Company included the late Sir John Harington and Lady Harington. Lady Harington may well have been sympathetic to de Malynes' plight. After all, it was her son who repaid de Malynes' bond so spitefully with worthless farthings. I have not found any records to support the continued communications between de Malynes and the Harington family after he was sacked by Lord Harington Junior. However, Lady Harington's sister was married to King James I, and de Malynes continued to correspond with the King even during his imprisonment. At the risk of speculating, Lady Harington may have helped de Malynes monetize his stockpile through her ownership of the Virginia Company.

### **Collecting Patent Farthings**

As with any coinage, there are many ways to collect the Harington family's patent farthings. You could collect by type. If so, your collection would be complete with one tinned Type 1a, one untinned Type 1a, one Type 1b, and one Type 1c. Finding a nice one of each could be quite a challenge!

Or, you could collect them by variety. This approach gets a bit more involved as you would need one of each privy and finish (tinned vs. untinned.) Other variations, such as variation in the number of harp strings, or changes in the punctuation of the legends would also need to be factored in.

<sup>9</sup> Sportack, Mark A., "Gerard de Malynes: Accidental Moneyer to the New World," New York, The American Numismatic Society, *The Colonial Newsletter*, serial no. 163, Vol. 57, No. 1, April 2017, pp. 4514-4529.

Or, you could simply pick a type and privy and just collect ONE. For example, you could focus just on the Type 1c privy and see how many different die image examples you can find. Such an approach, while narrow in its focus, would greatly advance the body of knowledge on these coins.

Or, you could collect them comprehensively by seeking one example made from each die image. It may well be impossible to complete such a set, but would be quite the challenge! The basic problem with this approach is that no one knows for certain how many die images there were per roller die, or how many sets of roller dies were used. Nor has anyone yet attempted to catalog anything but the most superficial of die variety diagnostics. You would be blazing a new trail!

### **Special Considerations**

There are a few things you should consider before starting to collect patent farthings. Collecting them can be difficult and frustrating, but also quite rewarding. If you try collecting them, you will quickly realize the many challenges stacked against you. In addition to the rarity and lack of a ready supply of patent farthing in the US, you must have a very healthy tolerance for low grade coins, a willingness to accept environmental damage as “character,” and a general lack of detailed knowledge or support groups to guide your pursuit of the coins. If you can accept these challenges, then patent farthings may be just the ticket for you. Unless, of course, you are averse to a profusion of contemporary counterfeits or don’t like coins that almost always feature straight, curved or ragged clips.

It was also quite common for folks in the 1600s to clip a small piece of metal from every coin they handled. The coin would still exchange at face value – especially since curved and straight clips were common – and the clipper would accumulate valuable refined metal obtained for free. All this clandestine clipping can be seen on farthings today and is yet another source of confusion when identifying authentic farthings. Some counterfeiters lacked sophisticated machinery and would use tin-snips or similar to cut out their farthings. The result was a squarish coin. But that same shape could be obtained if several people clipped metal from a regally-sanctioned farthing. Such clandestine clipping was quite common! In fact, some small-scale counterfeiters obtained copper for their counterfeits in this manner.

Then, too, there’s the oddities of roller-pressed coins. Sometimes, you will find a fragment of a neighboring coin if the obverse and reverse dies were misaligned. You also won’t find a chained die emission sequence. The roller dies featured a witness mark (just a dot or stop punched in the interstitial space between die images on the roller’s face) that enabled the obverse and reverse dies to be synchronized to each other in the press. A chained die emission sequence can be critical for distinguishing a newly-discovered die variety from a counterfeit. That’s a luxury not afforded to collectors of roller-pressed coins.

If you can get beyond these challenges you will find the rare opportunity to conduct your own research on an ancient but poorly-understood coinage. The existing body of knowledge is superficial at best, as no comprehensive die study has yet been undertaken. If you avail yourself of the few publications available on patent farthings you will find just basic frameworks. You will also find a true lack of consensus on very basic topics such as to how to identify a contemporary counterfeit, who made them, etc. The flip side of these negatives is that each new farthing you encounter is literally a new opportunity to learn and discover something new!

## **THE WINSLET COLLECTION FOR AMERICA'S 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

(Kristen Winslet)

I started collecting coins in earnest in 2005 while working at a Mortgage Corporation. I noticed that the real estate market was heating up and everybody was buying homes, even those who really could not afford to because of the types of loans that were closing. As a result, I could see a market meltdown coming; even the loan officers didn't want to believe what I was telling them. So I decided to close out my investment accounts and buy into NGC Graded Coins. While I started with a type set at the highest grade I could afford, I completed my collection in 2008, (just as the economy was beginning to fail). I had a type set for the following years, (U.S. Mint Coins): 1800 (AU-50), 1850 (MS-60), 1900 (MS-63), 1950 (MS-65) & 2000 (MS/PF 69.) These sets also included the Gold Eagles, the 2000 set included the Platinum Eagles and Bi-Metal Library of Congress, (both MS and PF.)

Then the economy failed, I had to sell almost everything to pay off my debt and so that I could live off of while I was out of work for all of 2009. I had 27 interviews over the 14 months I was out of work, no one would hire an overqualified person, and so I waited and sold off my coins.

In 2010, I started working again and began re-building my life at the age of 47 with practically nothing to speak of. I lived back home with my Mom while I worked hard and got myself back on my feet. I moved back into an apartment the end of 2010, it felt good.

Then in late 2012, I decided to get back into coin collecting, but this time I felt that Colonial & Post Colonial arena was where I wanted to focus; I knew what it was like to struggle to get by so I started with the 1783 Washington & Independence pieces, the few coins I had left from my original collection.

As I began to rebuild my collection, I thought it would be a great idea to build a high grade collection and donate them to museums for America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026. I liked the idea and I was used to living minimally, so why not do something that will leave a legacy behind for others. I don't need a big house just for myself so why not, it's worth the sacrifice.

To date I have a great many high-grade coins, tokens and medals, some unique, but all near the top grade. Mid 2015 thru 2017 I made most of my push for rare high grade coins, going into debt to be sure I could buy what I could when they were available. While I've got a ways to go, oh about 50% yet with the collection, I've made a great start in my collecting goal with eight years to go.

To date my personal commitment includes over 200 Colonial Coins & Tokens, (Some restrikes & modern presidential proof coins.). My estimation is the final value of the donation will amount to \$500K when finished, maybe more. I am working with

colonial coin dealers, auction houses & the Numismatic Guarantee Corporation. So, what's being donated? Here are a few examples:

- 1722 Rosa Americana 2 Pence (MS-63 RB, downgraded from PCGS MS-64 by NGC.)
- 1783 Washington & Independence (1820 original strikes, 1860 copper & silver restrikes.)  
(To date, I have 18 silver restrikes, quite a few were downgraded from PCGS by NGC.)
- 1785 Nova Constellatio Copper (MS-62 BN.)
- 1786 New Jersey Copper, 1st use of E Pluribus Unum, Maris 21-N, (MS-62 BN.)
- 1787 Fugio Cent (1860 Restrike: MS-65 BN, downgraded from PCGS MS-66 by NGC.)
- 1789 Mott Token thick planchet 'Early Strike w/o Cud,' (MS-63 BN, downgraded from PCGS MS-64 by NGC.)
- 1792 Kentucky Tokens Copper: Engrailed, Lancaster & Plain Edge (MS-63/65 RB)
- 1794 Franklin Press Token (MS-65 RB)
- 1795 Talbot Allum & Lee Cent Varieties (MS/PF-63 thru 65 BN & RB)
- 1776 Continental Currency (1961/62 Bashlow/Bowers Restrikes MS-67)
- Washington Tokens & Medals, (Cambridge Elm Tree, General of the American Armies and many more MS varieties)



On the labels, I add the pedigree of "Winslet Collection" and when I get ready to actually donate these coins, tokens and medals, I'm going to have a private label to distinguish these coins in the museum. I have included a few photos for this article, photo's I receive as I approve the setting of the coin and the label before NGC returns the coins to me. I do not believe they will mind my sharing a few of these photos.

**The Goal of the Donation:** "Preserve History for All Who Follow, Shall they Never Forget the Sacrifice Made for Liberty."

Well, I hope you've enjoyed the article, my coin collecting journey. Please feel free to contact me with comments or questions, at [kristenwinslet@verizon.net](mailto:kristenwinslet@verizon.net) or [on LinkedIn.com](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kristenwinslet/).



## COUNTERFEITS / COPIES: LOVE THEM OR HATE THEM

(Jim Biancarosa)

In the fall 2017 Issue of *The C4 Newsletter* it was mentioned that it might be a good idea to have a list of counterfeits and copies so that we can have some idea about what is out there. This would be a massive undertaking which I am not qualified to take on, but I can and will do my part to inform those of this threat to our hobby. There is one problem with this because I love some of this stuff. I know that I'm in the minority on this, which may be called the dark side of numismatics and would like to keep it that way. I don't need any competition. I realize deceptive counterfeits are a problem for most, but the problem centers around greed. The old adage, "If it's too good to be true, it IS too good to be true" holds. Learning what the coin you want to acquire looks like will help keep you from buying a counterfeit or altered coin. Sounds simple. It isn't. But, if you know a few things to look for, you stand a better chance of avoiding a rip off.

For example, the edge is very important. Most of the new Chinese counterfeits are struck in collars. A lot of older American coins were not struck in collars. Was the coin you that want to buy struck in a collar? I look at the obverse, then the reverse and then check the third side (the edge,) first to see if it is squared, which would tell that it was struck in a collar. Next I check for ports or file marks that might be on cast or electro coins. Then I look for edge markings such as vines and bars, lettering or reeded edges. Sloppy edges can mean counterfeit. Most counterfeiters rely on you not looking at the edge because they think most people are looking at the great deal they're getting.

At my local club, the Palm Beach Coin Club (PBCC,) I'm known as the "Counterfeit Guy." When I first moved from New York, the Chinese counterfeits were getting to the point of fooling even long time collectors, so I said let's make this a teaching moment and have a little fun. To me this is a hobby and, if you're not having fun, go play golf. A buddy from my former New York coin club, Fred Schornstein, who also enjoys contemporary counterfeits, had sent me what appears to be a Chinese made U.S. 1872 two cent piece, which is fairly deceptive except it was struck in a collar and its details are a little "mushy." The real ones were not struck in a collar. However, this counterfeit has a squared edge plus a wire edging sticking up a little higher than the lettering from K-12 to K-4, but not really noticeable to the naked eye. So, at a PBCC meeting one night I took it in a plain flip and asked a few dealers if they would be interested in it - Four were interested. One thought the coloring was a little funny looking and another said this is a counterfeit. I told him to please keep it to himself and that I had made arrangements with our President, Tony Swicer (just re-elected unopposed now in his 35th term,) to allow me to speak about it later on in the meeting. I did speak about it being counterfeit and it was informative and fun for the club. The dealers who were the target were surprised, but did they learn from this? Nope! I picked up a nice red, probably Chinese counterfeit, 1802 half cent at one meeting and took it home. I left it outside to bake in the Florida sun, flipping it daily for a week and it turned a nice chocolate brown. I brought it back two weeks later and, yes, they took the bait. From that day forward, I have a difficult time in pulling this off because as soon as I show them a coin they will ask if it is counterfeit.





To put things in the proper perspective, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I am 69 years of age and don't remember a time when I wasn't involved and in love with coins. I grew up in the Bronx, NY with my Dad (Mom wanted no part of coins) who was a part time coin and gun dealer. I think coins are part of my DNA and as a kid I collected coins and learned to work with my hands to convert military weapons into hunting rifles while my Dad made the money selling the guns and coins in the neighborhood. Dad would make what he called "hole fillers," taking a 1944-D, removing parts the second 4 to make it a 1914-D and selling them for a couple of bucks. He would always list them as "altered to fill that expensive hole cheaply." So, I'm comfortable with counterfeits, contemporary counterfeits and altered coins.

As previously stated I'm not writing this as an end all on the subject but to open the door and get other opinions and ideas. Maybe in the process of these articles some real cool stuff will come to light. Last week I picked up two nice pieces from the same dealer a Roman Ides of March (Eid Mar) piece. It was said to be a museum's copy. You can't own a genuine coin in this condition and if you could you would have to hide it in a safe. But with a copy I can walk around with it in my pocket to show and share with others the art and history of this iconic coin. The second is a Franco-American 1752 Jeton which I sent a photo to the person who is researching Casterland Tokens. It's made by the same Paris mint. It was still being produced in the 1960's with the same 1752 date. Is that a counterfeit? Okay, those are another two types of copies to add to the list.



On with the rest of the story. I sold my first collection of Lincoln Cents (my first love) to finance my first wedding. Lost money on both sides of that mess. I should have kept the coins. A few years later, I visited Bermuda and started collecting Bermuda coins and tokens. I befriended the only coin shop owner on the Island and then got hooked on Hogge Shillings, only copies of course. I now have about 30 including shillings, six-, three-, and two-pence. Then I came upon a token which has "\* Sommer \* Island \*" and a hogge on one side, and a sailing ship with "NIEU \* AMSTERDAM" on the other side. Is this a Mule or Fantasy? It's listed as x# M8 in *Unusual World Coins* and is a Bashlow copy, adding that to the list. Okay, what are you calling this, a fantasy or mule, a mule fantasy. Whatever, add it to the list.



Robert Bashlow's Ca. 1960 fantasy muling of Montroville Dickeson's mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Sommer Islands shilling repro with Thomas Elder's 1909 Hendrik Hudson commemorative.

This started me on a new phase of collecting. I evolved from collector to numismatist. In this new pursuit of study, I came across a book, *Confessions of a Numismatic Fanatic*, by Frank Robinson. After reading this book it instilled in me that it is all right to collect what strikes your fancy not just follow the crowd. I finally realized it is okay to collect what you want, not what you need to fill the next hole in the binder. I frequently tell people my collection

is complete, that is until I find the next coin that strikes my fancy that I have to have - with the disclaimer that, if I can't get it at the right price, it's not as attractive anymore.

I kept evolving and started to collect Colonials and copies of Colonials which are an interesting group of coppers with a mix of a few silver and gold pieces. The copies are usually base metal and are sometimes plated. They can be struck, cast or electrotypes.



Copies of a 1787 New York Excelsior copper (left) and a 1787 Connecticut Miller 1.1-A copper (right.)

I then realized there was a colonial that at the time was being overlooked: Counterfeit British halfpennies and farthings. These were the workhorse coinage of the newly established colonies in America (which also includes Canada.)



Late 1780s imitation halfpennies from Machin's Mills:  
1778-dated Vlack 11-78A (left) and 1788-dated Vlack 23-88A (right.)

Also, keep in mind, quite a few of the state coppers were in essence copies of the British regal coppers. So, who are the bad guys here - the state coinage or the counterfeiters? If you think about, it they are both counterfeiters. As I started to accumulate them I noticed that some of them have different mottos and busts. The First one I noticed was Wood 33 / BL-37, which is listed in *Charlton Canadian Colonial Tokens* on page 227. I wrote an article on this coin in CNL, which inspired another well written article trying to debunk my article. So, I co-authored a second with Jeff Rock and John Lorenzo. I may have a third article in me pertaining to that coin and there is still an argument on if it's a unofficial state copper, an Evasion – another category.





Here we go again with another three categories: Evasions, Conder tokens and Blacksmith tokens. Conder tokens are private issues that entered the mix, usually as halfpennies. Evasions are tokens made to evade the coinage laws of Great Britain by changing the mottos, figures or bust. A very interesting group most are struck with silhouette like busts and figures with bold mottos. Are they counterfeits no but? The blacksmith are very crude copies of Brittan's half pence. The story goes that they were made by Blacksmiths to take to the saloons to finance a fun evening.



Conder token, Dalton & Hamer, Middlesex 1035a (left) and Evasion, Cobwright G.0990/B.0060 (right.) Note reverse "aliens."



Blacksmiths: Wood 14/BL-10, with British reverse (left,) and Wood 12/BL-8 (right,) with Irish reverse.

A while back when I was living on Long Island and I was a member of two local clubs, which were the Long Island Coin Club and the Massapequa Coin Club. In 1998 the Massapequa coin club was going to celebrate their 30th anniversary and wanted to make a token to celebrate it. I thought a Massapequa Pine tree Shilling instead of a Massachusetts Pine tree Shilling might be nice and they all agreed. One of the members started to collect scrap silver from the members to make cast tokens. I thought struck pieces would be a better choice, but I was out voted. He never followed through on this because of business related problems. A couple of years later in 2001, I made the tokens having no experience with die making or pressing coins. It took me a while and many missteps but I produced an 1.5 inch lead token that was a lot fun. It was also a lot of work. Here we go again more to add to the list. Club medals or store cards.



I think we will leave it here. Copies and Counterfeits are, the major part of my collection. I am not collecting to make money but I am absolutely happy when that happens. I am more of a collector than investor, but with this hobby we can always recoup some of our money or even make a profit when we decide to sell or get planted. Try that with other hobbies. By the way, please don't start collecting Counterfeits or Copies, well at least until they plant me.



Portrait of the author's parents, by the author.

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## THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

*Founded in 1960, The Colonial Newsletter (CNL) publishes scholarship on early American numismatics. CNL focuses on the coinages produced by the states during the Confederation period, and also investigates a variety of other specie.*

In September 2015, numismatic literature expert David Fanning listed his top 10 numismatic publications of the 20th century. *The Colonial Newsletter* ranked 1st among journals, and 5th in overall publications.\*

2018 will see some major changes to *CNL* as the format is updated so that more pages can be included. The next issue of *CNL* will be in a journal format and be around 200 pages. The next issue of *CNL* will feature articles on Auctori Plebis tokens, Higley coppers, two newly discovered New England shillings, an overview of Spanish coinage in the Americas, and an article on fiscal paper and the Connecticut mint.

*Starting in 2018 CNL* will be published two times a year by the American Numismatic Society (ANS) in June and December.

Subscribe to *CNL*: <http://numismatics.org/store/cnl/>. \$45 for ANS Members; \$60 for non-Members.

Contact the editor, Christopher McDowell, at [crmcdowell@strausstroy.com](mailto:crmcdowell@strausstroy.com) for additional information.



[\*] <http://conacoinclub.com/category/whats-new-with-cona/>

## C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Let's all help our fellow C4 Members as well as future C4 Members. *TAKE THE C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE*. Details are located elsewhere in this newsletter.

Below are new items acquired by the club since the last C4 Library Update. They are now available for loan by all C4 and EAC members in good standing. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org). Thanks to all who have donated items.

Thank You to those who have checked their old copies of auction catalogs and donated them to the library. There's still room for more. The Library is interested in getting copies of past auction catalogs that we currently do not have. Take a look at the list shown on the club website. Any that are not already in the library are greatly appreciated. Remember, all catalogs that have at least one Colonial will have the colonial section separated and added to the library archive. Catalogs with major colonial content will be retained in their entirety. Thanks.

### Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs:

Issac, Dale, *Binder of Pictures taken at the 2016 C4 Convention, Also Pictures by Dale on visits to the Santiago Spanish Mint Building and The Charlotte Coin Club Show – February 2017*, – Donated by Dale Isaac

Issac, Dale, *Binder of Pictures taken at the April 2017 EAC/C4 Joint Convention* - Donated by Dale Isaac

New Haven Museum and Historical Society, *The Whitney Library Conservation Report – Ledger: Company for Coining Copper*, New Haven CT, May 2017 – Donated by Jay Knipe

Convention Booklet for the 23rd Annual C4 Convention, 9-12 November 2017, Baltimore MD, Includes; President's Message, schedule of events and other useful convention information – Donated by Ray Williams

Stacks Bowers, *The Collections of Dr. Gordon Shaw & Anthony Bettencourt*, 29-31 March & 3-4 April 2017, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Kevin Vinton, *The 2017 EAC Convention Sale*, 22 April 2017, Philadelphia PA – Donated by EAC

Daniel Frank Sedwick, *Treasure and World & US Coin and Paper Money Auction 21*, 3-4 May 2017, Winter Park FL – Donated by Daniel Sedwick

Stacks Bowers, *Selections from the Blue Moon & Robert Warner Wolfe Collections*, 21-23 June & 26-27 June 2017, Baltimore MD, – Donated by Stacks Bowers



Stacks Bowers, *The High Rise and Magnolia Collections*, 1,3,7,8 August 2017, Denver CO – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Daniel Frank Sedwick, *Treasure and World & US Coin and Paper Money Auction 22*, 2-3 November 2017, Orlando FL – Donated by Daniel Sedwick

Stacks Bowers, *Cardinal Collection Alexander Collection and Murray Hill Collection (including the C4 Convention Auction)*, 8-10 & 13-14 November 2017, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *Rarities Night*, 9 November 2017, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The November 2017 Baltimore Auction – US Currency*, 9 & 13 November 2017, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Kevin Vinton, *The 2016 EAC Convention Sale*, 22 April 2017, Philadelphia PA – Donated by EAC

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. Thank You. **My email is [Leo\\_J\\_Shane@hotmail.com](mailto:Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com).**

You didn't know before. Second – You will be alerting other C4 members to items that may help them increase their hobby knowledge.

As the inscription on the Fugio Cent says, “Time Flys So Mind your Business.” Make this challenge your business to increase our understanding of the Coins and Paper Money we collect.

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## 2017 C4 CONVENTION AUCTION REPORT

(Richard August)

The grading I assign to these auction lots is purely my own opinion. Some lots I graded the same, some higher and some lower than the catalog grade. But I felt most of the coins brought the appropriate price for the grade when viewed. Here goes...

- 4001 Although this was graded by PCGS as VF details, I would have let it pass as a nicely struck VF 25 with a beautiful Oak tree. At \$2400 it was a bargain.
- 4002 This was graded VF 20, but I would have called it net 15, yet it still brought \$3960. I like the previous coin much more, but in this case the holder was more important to the buyer.
- 4003 Net 40 in my opinion, yet still nice and a bargain at \$1440, worth substantially more.
- 4004 XF 45 lightly cleaned with a great strike, a wonderful coin and well worth \$14400.
- 4005 was a bit undergraded, VF-XF 35 nice type, and well worth \$4650.
- 4006 VF-XF 30 in my opinion, so a bit undergraded, a scarcer die, and a bargain at \$3360.
- 4007 I would not call this a Good 4, but AG 2 or 3, but still brought the appropriate price of \$720.
- 4009 XF 45 but net 40 as lightly cleaned, still a lovely and rare coin, well worth \$18,000.
- 4015 AVF 18, but great strike and well worth \$1800, nice type.
- 4016 I would have called this a nice Unc for a plantation token, and well worth \$4080.
- 4019 Not a great looking coin, I'd call it VG-F, but since it was an R6, it was well worth \$780.
- 4021 An Unc Rosa penny for only \$528. That slipped by as a great buy.
- 4026 A very rare Hibernia with rocks at the right. The hole can be pardoned in this case, I'd call it a nice fine and well worth \$2040.
- 4027 A very nice 1722 Hibernia 1/2p in XF a bargain at \$360. The Rosas and Hibernias that followed were all very nice and went for bargains. I think people were waiting for state coins and especially the New Jerseys
- 4035 A Virginia 1/2p in MS66 brought a very bold price of \$5760. I remember when red Uncs were very common. More of them need to be slabbed to straighten out the census.
- 4039 A very pleasing elephant token brought only \$660, a bargain.

All the Voce Populi brought somewhat subdued prices. Lot 4042, Nelson 14 in XF, was especially nice for the die and a bargain at \$960.

- 4043 A choice Unc R.I. ship which I called MS64 brought only \$6600, a superb type.
- 4044 An even choicer R.I. ship token which I graded MS65 or finer went for the bargain price of \$8400.
- 4045 A rare R.I. ship token in pewter in AU brought \$6600, another bargain
- 4046 A very respectable Chalmers shilling in VF went for \$6600.

The French colonies coins went for subdued prices. Surely 4048 a 30 denier of 1710 in AU is worth much more than \$228. On the other hand, the Nova Constellatio brought healthy prices.

- 4051 A 1785 Nova in only Fine brought \$336.
- 4052 A 1785 Nova 3B in AU 58 brought \$2160 while another 3B in AU 53 in the following lot brought \$1440, a more reasonable price.
- 4055 The rare 1786 Nova struck at Machin's Mills, even though only AG, was well worth \$2880.

## C4 Newsletter

4056 A nice Mass half cent in VF brought a very reasonable \$576.

4057 Another nice Mass half cent of a very tough die, 1788 1-A in decent VF 30 brought \$720, a good buy.

4058 The common, but decent XF 40 1788 1-B that went for \$900, a very nice type.

4062 A Mass cent 3-A in nice VF 25 which went for the respectable price of \$432.

4065 was another Mass cent 11-E in VF-XF 30 that brought \$408, again a good buy, and finally,

4066 was the finest known 13-N 1788 Mass cent in Unc 63 that went for the well-deserved \$15,600.

Many of the Connecticut coppers were very pleasant coins.

4074 A 1786 5.4-O.1 which I graded F-VF 15 brought only \$144 and was worth more.

4078 A 1787 Horned bust in pleasant XF 40 brought only \$360, again a good buy.

4079 1787 Laughing head in brown VF-XF 35 brought only \$552, another nice type at an attractive price.

4086 A 1787 26-AA that I graded VF 20 and nice for a large letter variety brought only \$228, a bargain.

4089 A 1787 32.4-F which I graded a nice VF 20 in an interesting late die state brought \$1800 from a very astute buyer. This is a very interesting die pair in condition census condition.

4090 A 1787 33.1-Z.19 in Unc brought a well-deserved \$4560. I think it is the finest known.

4091 A 1787 33.2-Z.5 in AU brought \$1320 and was another probable condition census of note.

4102 A 1787 45-CC in XF brought \$3600 and was also a condition census coin.

There were no choice Machin's Mills coins in this auction, as these coins are very under-rated in upper condition.

4111 was a choice 1770 George III 1/2 penny counterfeit in Unc, 1770 is a much scarcer counterfeit date, and this example brought only \$312.

4116 was a fabulous George III Irish 1/2 penny counterfeit of Ireland brought \$1920, a real treasure.

Now for the nice group of New Jerseys which seem to be the most avidly collected series at the moment.

4120 A very pleasant 6-C in nice Fine 12 brought \$720, and I would not have described it as PCGS did.

4122 a very sharp late die state 6-D brought \$384.

4123 was a very sharp 12-G no coulter in VF 25, and it went for \$1920, a choice type.

4125 was the much scarcer 12-I no coulter. I personally would have graded it at best VF-XF 30, but it still should have brought more than the \$1800 that it did bring.

4129 was a 15-J in XF but net 30 due to the granularity, still with the detail it brought \$840.

4133 A rare 15-U which was very corroded so I netted it at VG 8. It brought \$720. Had it been a true problem free VF 35 it would have gone for over \$3000, and I would have bid on it.

4139 A 19-M in what I call F+ brought \$11,400, but I'm not sure if that listing of price is correct, as that seems to me to be out of line. *[Editor's note: Lot 4140, another 19-M, lists as \$1140 – A coincidence that the digits were repeated?]*

4141 was a choice 21-N which I still would have called a full AU 55, and condition census. At \$3120 it should have brought double that. It had a great pedigree and was condition census.

- 4145 was a pleasant 23-R but I would have netted it out at VF-XF 30 due to surface problems. It brought \$2040 which I thought was a bit high.
- 4147 was a choice 24-P which I would have still called a close call for an AU 50 due to the scratch on the reverse. I again thought \$2880 was a strong price for such a common coin.
- 4148 was a nice VF 25 24-R which is a tough coin. It brought a well-deserved \$2280.
- 4158 A 37-J in VG 8 net 6, another tough NJ, especially in nice grade, brought a well appreciated \$900.
- 4153 was a truly choice 30-L which I called an AU 55 or 50 with no restrictions. It brought a well-deserved \$4020 as a condition census coin, and at that was still a good buy.
- 4163 was a rare 41-c which I graded only G4 as the reverse was almost blank. At \$576 it was still an appropriate price for this rarity.
- 4171 was a common 48-g in exquisite condition as I called it AU 58. It brought \$4560.
- 4180 was a tough 55-m which I also graded VF-XF 35 and possibly a 40. It should have brought a lot more than \$1080.
- 4181 was a 56-N over a Vlack 25-87-C in VF-XF 30 and there is but one other known of this host coin. The coin brought \$5280.
- 4184 was a 59-O in net Fine 12 due to granularity and, at \$660, it was appropriate.
- 4185 was a 60-P in nice VF 25 and at \$660 was a bargain for this PLURIBS variety.
- 4187 was a 61-P in VF 25 choice, and it brought \$4080, a good price for this rare PLURIBS.
- 4197 was a choice 65-u in VF-XF 30 or 35. It brought \$7800 and I suspect it is a solid condition coin due to its choiceness.
- 4198 was a 66-v which I graded as net 20 due to its corrosion. It brought \$2880.
- 4202 was a 72-z over a VT RR-19 which was passed. Someone should have bitten the bullet on this very rare, if not unique, combo.
- 4211 A choice RR 8 In VF25 that brought \$3840 due to its great color, strike and planchet.
- 4212 Another RR8 in VF 20 brought only \$780, a bargain.
- 4219 A choice Bar copper which I graded only XF 40 brought a strong price of \$13,200. Bar coppers seem to be very popular, but I am not certain that they are coins.

There were many choice Washington coins, most of which went for far less than I thought they were worth:

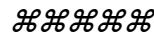
- 4231 A 1791 Washington Large Eagle in Unc went for \$1740 only.
- 4232 Another Large Eagle in net 58 brought only \$1050.
- 4233 Another Large Eagle in Unc brought only \$1560.
- 4234 A 1791 Washington Small Eagle in AU 58 brought only \$1440.
- 4235 Another Small Eagle in AU 58 brought only \$1200.
- 4236 A 1793/2 Washington Ship halfpenny In AU brought only \$528.
- 4241 A lovely Washington success token in AU brought a paltry \$660.
- 4242 Washington Liberty and Security Penny in MS 66 finally brought a well deserved \$6600.

With the recent publication of Neil Musante's books on Washingtonia, more people need to wake up to collecting the genre. He was only the first President of the United States and a hero of the American Revolution. Isn't that enough reason to want to collect items relating to him.

- 4240 A unique Washington Born Virginia Lettered Edge copper went begging at \$3120, as did all the other remaining Washington items except the two Washington Funeral Medals.
- 4250 A Washington Funeral medal in Fine condition in silver brought \$2160.

4251 A Washington Funeral medal in Unc in pewter brought \$8100. It was undergraded.  
4257 A 1-B Fugio in VF 20 brought \$1440.  
4258 Another 1-B Fugio in Fine 15 net 12 brought a good price of \$1380.  
4260 A 3-D club ray Fugio in undergraded VF-XF 35 brought only \$1020, worth twice that.  
4261 A 6-W Fugio in choice VF-XF 30 brought \$1560.  
4262 A 7-T Fugio in VF 30 brought only \$900 and was worth much more.  
4264 A multiple-strike 8-X Fugio brought a whopping \$7800.  
4266 A 9-T Fugio in undergraded VF 25 brought only \$660.  
4269 A rare 12-KK Fugio in AXF brought \$1560 which was another Fugio bargain.  
4270 A 13-X Fugio in AU 55 brought \$1560 which was also a bargain.  
4273 A 15-K Fugio in Fine 12 brought only \$432. This is a rare Fugio.  
4277 A 17-S Fugio in VF-XF 30 brought only \$630, a great buy.  
4279 A 19-M Fugio net F-VF brought only \$456, and this is a very rare Fugio.  
4281 A 19-SS Fugio in Fine 12 brought only \$504, and this is another rare Fugio.

Perhaps the Fugios went so cheaply because they were at the end of the auction and everybody was already all spent out or mentally tired. Where are all those Large cent collectors who should be collecting Fugios by the variety at far cheaper prices than most 1794 Large cents?



### **SOUTH JERSEY METAL DETECTING CLUB**

- Keep up with the latest news on colonial coin recoveries in the tri-state area
- Learn the tricks of the hobby from our friendly members or borrow a book from our lending library
- Learn how to beach detect at shore locations
- Many important recovered colonial coins have found their way to auction houses thru the SJMDC
- Join and reap the benefits of the monthly Newsletter to find out the scoop without being physically present

#### **South Jersey Metal Detecting Club**

Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm  
625 Station Ave, Haddon Heights (Municipal Bldg.)

[www.SJMDC.org](http://www.SJMDC.org)



## **TO ALL MEMBERS: A C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE (REITERATED)**

(Leo Shane, C4 Librarian)

The C4 Library has grown to almost 300 Books and over 700 Auction Catalogs (full and partial.) In addition, there are many non print recordings and other miscellaneous items. Many titles are out of print and hard to find. Some titles are rare. A complete listing can be viewed on the club website.

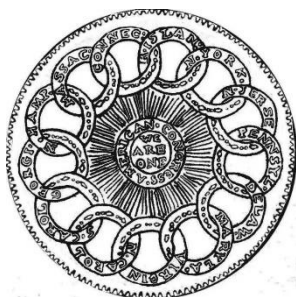
As the C4 Librarian I'd like to issue a challenge to all C4 Members. The challenge covers the next 12 months (roughly 1 November 2017 to 1 November 2018.) During that time, I'd like every member to borrow at least one item from the C4 Library, read it and then write a ½ to 1 page summary for publication in the C4 Newsletter. The summary should identify:

- 1.) What was borrowed? (title, author, edition)
- 2.) What was the subject matter in the item.?
- 3) Why did you borrow that particular item?
- 4) What did you learn from reading/studying it?
- 5) What other C4 Members would benefit from borrowing this item?

Many of the items in our library are not familiar to other members especially newer members. This Challenge will accomplish two things: First – You will learn something new that you didn't know before. Second – You will be alerting other C4 members to items that may help them increase their hobby knowledge.

As the inscription on the Fugio Cent says, "Time Flys So Mind your Business." Make this challenge your business to increase our understanding of the Coins and Paper Money we collect.

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## Early American Coppers

Early American Coppers (EAC) is a not-for-profit numismatic specialty organization founded in 1967 to serve as a point of contact for collectors of early U.S. copper coins – Colonials, Half Cents, Large Cents, and Hard Times Tokens

### Who We Are

Today EAC comprises over 1,200 members located throughout the United States. EAC members are deeply interested in the historical background, attribution, grading, rarity, and related aspects of the early coppers, as well as collecting and trading. Many EAC members are highly knowledgeable and prolific contributors to the numismatic literature of this country.

### Benefits of Membership

EAC is a community of collectors and researchers with a passion for the early copper coinage of the United States, a community of camaraderie and support. Our collective mission is to promote the study and enjoyment of early copper, both within the club and for the general coin collecting community. To achieve these goals we offer the following benefits of EAC membership:

#### Penny-Wise

This is the official journal for EAC. Well-respected among numismatic journals in the United States, it has won a number of awards from the Numismatic Literary Guild under the editorship of Harry E. Salyards (1986 to present). It is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Each issue includes a mixture of original research articles and more informal "Collector Notes," in which both veterans and novices share their copper-collecting experiences. There is also a "Swaps and Sales" section, where members may post coins for sale or trade.

#### EAC Website

All issues of Penny-Wise, back to the first issue in the fall of 1967, are available to the world on the Newman Numismatic Portal. Issues published in the last two years are available in the "Members Only" section of the EAC website. The Members only section includes a wealth of information.

#### Annual EAC Convention

The EAC Convention is held in early spring. This year we will meet at the beautiful Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. Meeting sites are rotated throughout the United States. In addition, EAC holds meetings and symposiums in conjunction with major coin conventions. They are the best way for new members to become familiar with early coppers and to meet others who share similar interests.

#### Region 8

Members enjoy a weekly newsletter email, consisting of submissions from other Region 8 members. Any EAC member can join Region 8.

#### Copper Notes and Dark Side

Copper Notes is EAC's online community, our very own private Facebook page. All EAC members are welcome but must request an invitation. Copper Notes is not visible to the general Facebook population. Enjoy real time conversations with the experts! Dark Side is a similar format discussing counterfeit Coins and anomalies.

EAC yearly dues are \$39.00. A junior membership (under 18) is available for \$5.00

**Join today by visiting [www.eacs.org](http://www.eacs.org)**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!**

Past issues of The C4 Newsletter, and a plethora of other important numismatic resources are now available online, through The Newman Numismatic Portal, at:

[www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic](http://www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic)

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### **COMPLETE C4 NEWSLETTER CDs FOR SALE**

C4 is making available on CD of a complete set of *C4 Newsletters* from 1993 (vol.1, no.1) through 2011 (vol.19, no. 4.) The format is a fully searchable PDF files, which makes life and research much easier. Thanks to Randy Clark, Ray Williams and Gary Trudgen for their vision and extremely hard work, which now lets us offer these wonderful research tools to you for \$50 plus \$4.00 p&h for members or \$75 plus \$4.00 p&h for non-members. To order, please contact either (a) Wayne Shelby at [dughistory@juno.com](mailto:dughistory@juno.com) or at P.O. Box 568 Rancocas, NJ 08073 or (b) Charlie Rohrer at [RohrerC@cadmus.com](mailto:RohrerC@cadmus.com) or at P.O. Box 25 Mountville, PA 17554. Please send your check made out to C4 to Charlie Rohrer at the above address.

I need help in a project that will turn into a *C4 Newsletter* article on estimating the surviving population of State Coinages. I am developing a model but need to better understand how many NJ coppers collectors hold. Only aggregated data will be used. I am looking for information on total number of NJ coppers, number recovered (dug), number purchased, and number sold in last 12 months or longer periods if available. I am looking for data from any size collections or accumulations.

**J. Howes;** 19967 East Doyle; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; 313 319-1743

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### **Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues**

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are \$10 for the first and \$8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

P.O. Box 568  
Rancocas, NJ 08073-956

[dughistory@juno.com](mailto:dughistory@juno.com)  
609-261-6662 (Home)

## C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org). These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website: [www.numisbook.com](http://www.numisbook.com).

(1) Carlotto, Tony, *The Copper Coins of Vermont and Those Bearing the Vermont Name*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998. Price: \$165.

(2) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: \$10.

(3) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price \$85.

(4) Martin, Sydney. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2016. Price \$85.

(5) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: \$85.

(6) Martin, Sydney. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2012. Price \$85.

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The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :

<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob> ..

<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfd5ZR~x~8=>

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## RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Our C4 Newsletter now has an index available on our website at [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org).

There are actually two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at [njraywms@optonline.net](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net) or call.

## C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently \$30.00 for Regular Membership (\$40 if residing outside the United States) and \$10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age; \$15 is non US resident.) They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or \$750.00. You may mail checks (made out to "C4") to:

Charlie Rohrer, C4 Treasurer  
PO Box 25  
Mountville, PA 17554

Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

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## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Jack Howes. The new provisional members, with their home states, are :

Lee Anderson - AL  
David Hampton - MI  
John Hoskins - CO

Robert Kellert - CA  
Scott McElmeel - OK  
Kevin Patton - NY

Roy Putze - VA  
Jacek Wrobel - VA  
Matt Yohe - PA

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## COLONIAL HAPPENING AT EAC 2018

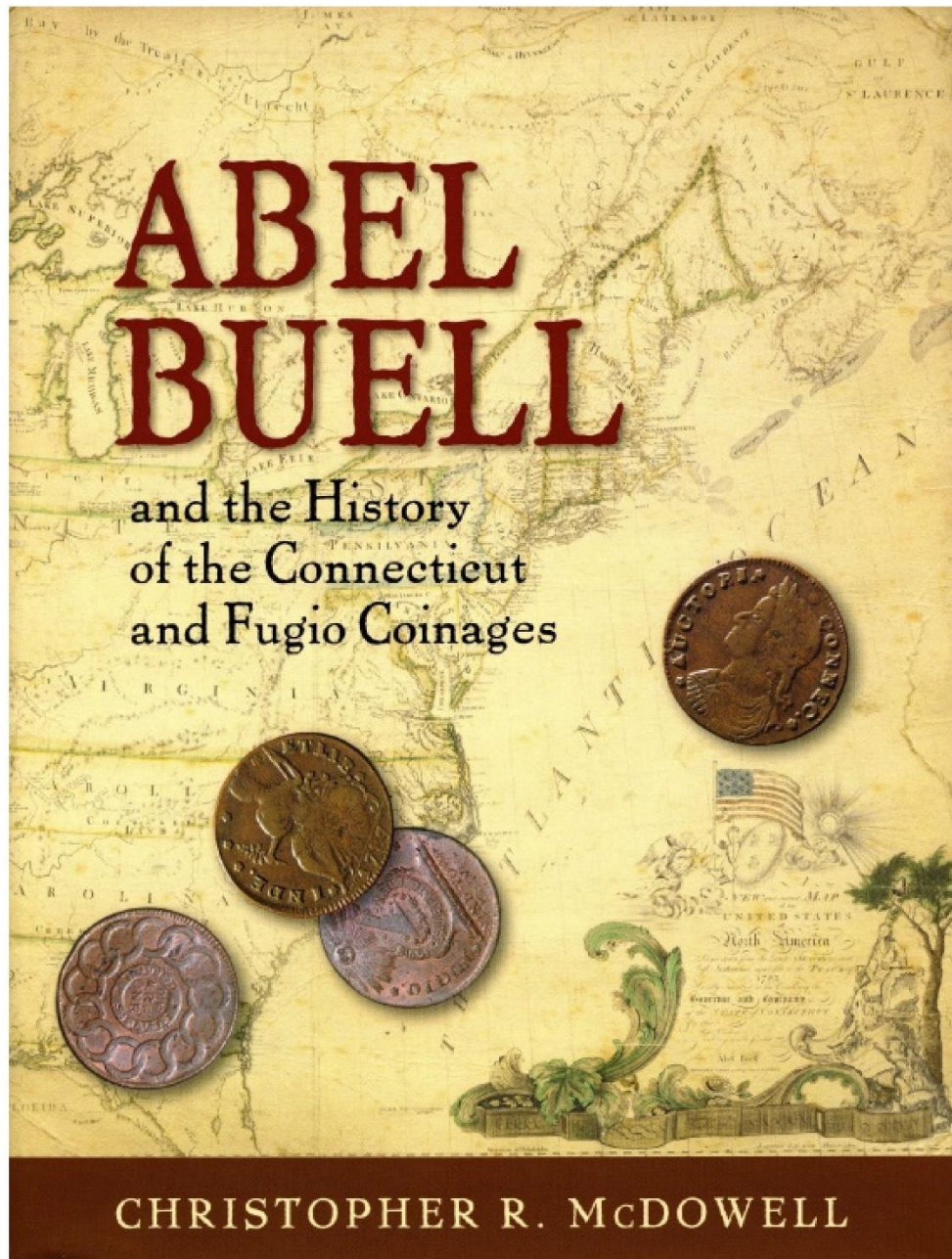
May 3, 2018 Traverse City, MI

EAC 2018 Convention will be here before you know it! After the EAC Reception on Thursday evening, our three "Happenings" are held, each geared toward Large Cents, Half Cents and Colonials. The Colonial Happening welcomes all to attend and participate (if desired.) We encourage you to bring something pre-federal to the gathering. We use a camera and projector to show the item on a screen for all to view, discuss and learn. Bring your favorite coin, something you have questions about, an oddity, colonial paper, a medal or token... but most important, **bring yourself**.

Those participating in the Large Cent and Half Cent Happenings are encouraged to duck in whenever they can for as long as they can. If you have any questions, contact Ray Williams [njraywms@optonline.net](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net).



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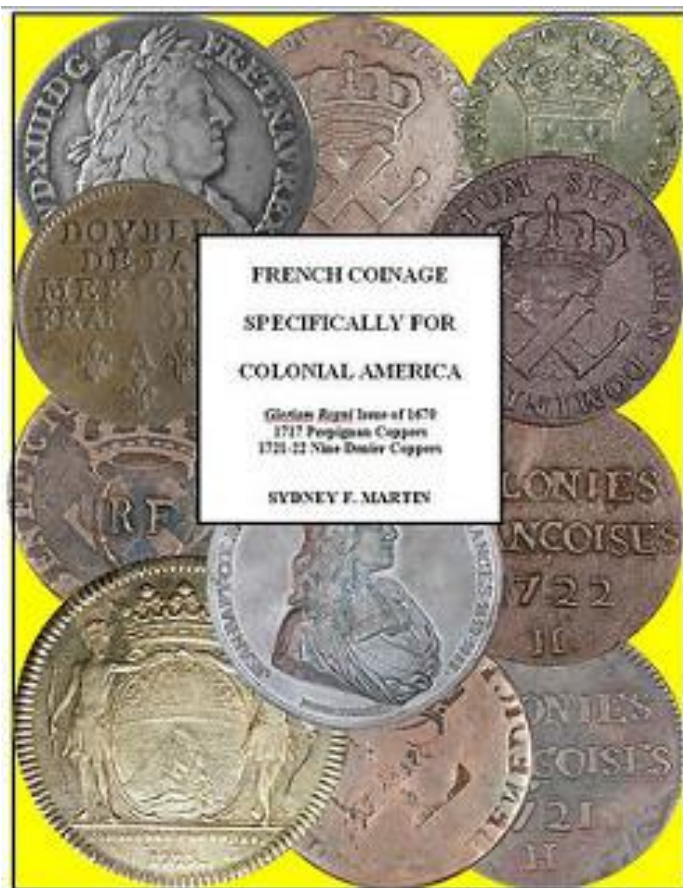
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## FRENCH COINAGE SPECIFICALLY FOR COLONIAL AMERICA

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, C4, released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America*. This is the third colonial coin book published by C4 written by Syd Martin. Other works include *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* and *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*. The Rosa and Hibernia books are now considered standard references for those coinages and Syd's long awaited new book is expected to become the leading reference works on French Coinage minted for circulation in North America.

According to Lou Jordan, the curator of numismatic collections for the University of Notre Dame, "Sid Martin has written the definitive catalog of French coinage authorized specifically for use in North America." Jordan went on to state that "this is an essential book for anyone interested in the French coinage of colonial North America."



"What many early American coin collectors fail to recognize," Martin said upon the book's release, "is that from the 16th century until 1763, New France included much of what is now the United States, as well as most of Canada. As such, coins minted by France for circulation in its North American colonies should be considered 'coins of the realm' in these areas." Colonial numismatic expert, John Kraljevich, went on to explain that "the history of the French in what is today the United States is largely forgotten. However, the memory of these people and their coinage has been long cherished in Canada."

Jim Rosen, president of C4, predicts that "Martin's new book will awaken an interest in both the history of the French speaking people in North American and the coins they used such as the Gloriam Regni coins of 1670, the 6 and 12-denier copper coins minted in 1717, and the copper 9-denier coins from 1721 and 22, all of which were struck in France specifically for circulation in the Americas."

In the book's introduction, John Kraljevich writes that, "With Crosby-like flair, Syd has marshaled together the original documents that tell the stories of these coinages. Most have never been published at all, let alone in English or all in one place. This original research guarantees this work's importance to researchers in every forthcoming generation. The heart of this book, the die studies, offers several pathways for collectors to navigate these series, by basic type, by major variety, by die combination, or even by die state. It's a project that no one has ever even attempted before, an outlier in the world of colonial numismatics, a field that has seen multiple die studies of most of the popular series. Given Syd's well-organized approach and the thousands of coins he's studied, it may be generations before this work is supplanted. It's doubtful anyone will ever do it any better."

The 480 page book is hardbound, well-illustrated throughout with photographs of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket depicting French Coinage. The book is available for \$85.00 plus \$7.00 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (<http://www.numisbook.com/>), Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.



## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

I'm currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Castorland jeton. I'm approaching the study from both sides of the Atlantic, relying heavily on French sources, and my study entails operational details from the manufacture of flans to the mechanical workings of the screw press; the history of jetons as they evolved from arithmetical counters to monarchical presentation pieces; events leading up to the establishment of the New York Company; the biography of Benjamin Duvivier; etc. culminating in detailed descriptions of variants struck from at least one original die. As you can see it's a big work, but I've been at it quite a few years and am wonderfully engaged in the project. Here is a "finding list" of details I'm looking for, as well as photos if possible:

1. If the specimen is in a slab, all the label information.
2. Identify the metal, gold, silver, copper, bronze. If silver, indicate thin or thick planchet.
3. If edge-stamped, identify the symbol and the lettering and location of the stamping (such as 6 o'clock relative the obverse.)
4. Die alignment: coin turn/medal turn.
5. Describe state of any reverse die failure, perceptible bulge, advanced crack, etc.
6. Describe reverse caustic incursion, sometimes identified as rust, at the right handle of the vessel.
7. Describe any other identifying factors such as rim bumps, scratches, spots, unfilled letters of legends, etc. that would help identify the piece if it were re-encapsulated at some future time.
8. Indicate the provenance, if known. If you currently own the specimen feel free to identify it ex your name for the benefit of future owners.

Please contact Chester L. Sullivan at [csull@ku.edu](mailto:csull@ku.edu).

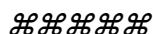


I am in the process of researching information pertaining to the Talbot, Allum & Lee series. I am seeking assistance from C-4 members who may have knowledge regarding the evolution of the series and the coins that were issued. I possess the basic series including all mules. If you have any unique or off metal pieces, or a half cent struck over a Talbot piece I would love to have access to them if possible.

Please contact Arnold Miniman at [ahminiman@gmail.com](mailto:ahminiman@gmail.com), or (201) 317-4199.



I am interested in acquiring unusual (e.g., mis-struck, counterstamped, love tokens) and high condition examples of St. Patrick coinage. I'm also seeking unusual edge markings on Kentucky pieces. Syd Martin: [sfmartin5@comcast.net](mailto:sfmartin5@comcast.net) or 215-348-8149.



## **CLASSIFIED ADS**

*Due to increased publications and mailing costs, the charge for half and full-page ads will increase for Volume 24. The new rates are shown below. These rates are still below comparable newsletters.*

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

|          | 1 issue | 2 issues | 3 issues | 4 issues | Copy Size |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 page   | \$300   | \$450    | \$600    | \$750    | 6" x 9"   |
| 1/2 page | \$175   | \$250    | \$325    | \$400    | 6" x 4.5" |

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire – generally \$200 additional.) If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.





## COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

Interested in acquiring a complete, original, unholed set of the Colonial Newsletter. Will pay any reasonable price. Contact [novacaesarea@yahoo.com](mailto:novacaesarea@yahoo.com).



**Mahogany Coin Cabinets** – Handcrafted from solid mahogany. Cabinets are available with either 12, 15, or 18 trays. Multiple recess sizes up to 2” available. Custom cabinets also available...contact me to discuss your needs. Cabinets start at \$350, with **free shipping** for C4 and EAC members. For additional details, information, images, or to order, visit:

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**LOST CENTS, DEAD OWNERS: Appreciating Coins in Decay.**

If you want to read something totally different and a bit radical, I think you will enjoy my new book. It is a heartfelt exploration of history as told by coins lost in the dirt. The book also explains how old coppers decay when confronted with Mother Nature. Finally, I examine the aesthetics of corrosion, born of the conflict between nature and man (wherein nature wins.) Check it out & enjoy a great weekend read.

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"Colonial, cut, countermarked and Caribbean coins (and some other odds and ends as well.) I am starting to sell a few pieces and have put up a website to that end. Please take a look at [eastrockcoins.com](http://eastrockcoins.com). Peter Griffin."



**Attribution Guide for New Jersey Coppers** by Michael Demling.  
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## C4 Newsletter

Clement V. Schettino; PO Box 1093; Saugus, MA 01906  
copperclem@comcast.net; copperclem.com

Some of the Earliest American Coppers. Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish Halfpence and Farthings. My personal collections built over the past decade are now for sale. We now have a webpage up and running with most all coins imaged and priced.

More will go up from time to time. I also have some Colonials and Spanish American Colonials-Cobs up. There are currently about 12 categories populated with coins for sale, they are; British George II, British George III, Irish George II, Irish George III, Counterstamps, Cast Ctfts, Mules, Errors, Regales Colonials and Cobs. In the near future I will be adding some interesting Misc pieces.

I am still selling CD's of my collections, the details are on the webpages.

Postage is always free for C4 and EAC members. Please use the savings towards next year's dues ;-).

Please visit the webpages at [coppercllem.com](http://coppercllem.com) and feel free to email with any questions.



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